Foreign Broadcast Information Service

50

ANNIVERSARY

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FBIS 50th Anniversary Note

To Our Consumers:

This year the Foreign Broadcast Information Service observes its 50th anniversary.

The service, first called the Foreign Broadcast Monitoring Service, was established in 1941 prior to the U.S. entry into World War II. At the time, a number of U.S. Government officials were concerned about the content of foreign radio broadcasts—a relatively new means of conveying information and propaganda across borders. On their advice, President Franklin D. Roosevelt in late February 1941 allotted money from his emergency fund to institute the recording, translating, transcribing, and analyzing of selected foreign broadcasts for the U.S. Government. During World War II the service demonstrated that monitoring was a fast, economical, and reliable way to follow overseas developments.

Today the Foreign Broadcast Information Service provides its consumers throughout the federal government, according to their diverse official interests, with information from a broad range of foreign public media. FBIS information also is available to readers outside of the government, through the National Technical Information Service. Objectivity, accuracy, and timeliness are our production watchwords.

We members of the current staff of FBIS extend our thanks to consumers for their interest in FBIS products. To past staffers we extend our thanks for helping the service reach this anniversary year. At the same time, we pledge our continued commitment to providing a useful information service.

R. W. Manners
Director
Foreign Broadcast Information Service

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FBIS-EAS-91-038 *26 February 1991*

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Japan

Officials React to Iraqi Withdrawal Statement

Kaifu Urges Link to UN Resolutions

OW2602013691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0120 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu strongly urged Iraq to accept United Nations resolutions Tuesday following reports that Iraq has ordered its troops to quit Kuwait.

"I strongly hope that (the Iraqi announcement) is directly linked to the U.N. Security Council resolution calling for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal," Kaifu told a House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting.

He said that Iraq's position was still unclear, but that the withdrawal, if it meets the U.N. Security Council demands, could be a "turning point" in the crisis.

Kaifu reiterated Japan's wish for early progress toward peace, but remained cautious and withheld official comment on an Iraqi radio broadcast that President Saddam Husayn has ordered Iraqi troops to retreat from Kuwait.

A Foreign Ministry official said the Japanese Government does not yet know of the true intention behind the Radio Baghdad announcement late Monday night.

"Radio Baghdad is a domestic radio service. What the Iraqis must do is to announce their intention through the United Nations and other public forums," a Foreign Ministry official said.

Another ministry official also noted the Baghdad radio report of withdrawal was apparently contradicted, as Iraqi forces fired a Scud missile at Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, killing at least a dozen American soldiers, with 40 soldiers missing.

Kaifu Optimistic About Withdrawal

OW2602101991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said Tuesday he is optimistic that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will follow through with his latest pledge to withdraw from Kuwait.

"Personally I think that (Husayn) is moving in the direction of withdrawing," Kaifu said following Husayn's radio address, in which he pledged to pull out of Kuwait within Tuesday.

But Kaifu said Husayn would have to state his position directly to the United Nations Security Council.

Husayn has a reputation for attaching conditions to his pledges, so the situation will have to be carefully watched, Kaifu told reporters.

Sakamoto Firm on UN Resolutions

OW2602101091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0952 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan rejected Tuesday Iraq's proposal to the U.N. Security Council to withdraw from Kuwait in exchange for invalidation of other Security Council resolutions.

"Iraq must accept all 12 U.N. Security Council resolutions. There is no change in our position," Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said.

He said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn told Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that he has ordered his troops to retreat from Kuwait, and requested that the Soviet [Union] help arrange a ceasefire.

Sakamoto said the position was presented by the Soviet U.N. delegation in a closed session of the Security Council on Monday.

Iraq told the session, however, that it wants the remaining 11 resolutions to be voided because they were "an excuse for invading" Iraq, Sakamoto said.

Sakamoto said the Americans told the session they were sticking to their former position, and the British delegation noted that the statement did not include recognition of the legitimate Kuwaiti Government. Sakamoto said the latest development indicated there would be no ceasefire soon. Asked how long he expects the war to continue, Sakamoto said, "Please ask Husayn."

The Foreign Ministry said Japan agrees with the allied nations that Iraq must officially notify the U.N. Security Council it is withdrawing from Kuwait, whatever [as received] Husayn says on the radio. Husayn told his people in a radio address Tuesday that Iraq would complete its withdrawal later Tuesday.

Ministry spokesman Taizo Watanabe said the Iraqis must abandon their arms when they withdraw, adding that operation otherwise would be interpreted as merely a tactical move.

The United States has said the multinational coalition fighting Iraq wants Baghdad to declare its annexation of Kuwait null and void, and accept liability for the damage Kuwait and other countries have suffered due to the conflict.

In parliamentary debate, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu suggested that Husayn make his intentions known to the United Nations in person.

"To boost the authority of the United Nations, Husayn should not just make a speech, but come directly to the United Nations to express his aims and respond to the apprehensions of members of the U.N. Security Council, Kaifu said. [quotation marks as received] He was responding to an opposition question on how to enhance the role of the United Nations.

Japan has said Husayn must make its intentions known through the United Nations, and that it will not accept pledges made over the radio.

Husayn's speech was preceded about nine hours earlier by an announcement on Radio Baghdad that he has ordered Iraqi troops to leave Kuwait.

Nakayama: Support for Allies 'Unchanged'

OW2602040591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0334 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Japan said Tuesday its support for the U.S.-led allied ground war in the Persian Gulf will remain unchanged unless Iraq officially declares its plans for an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait to the United Nations.

"Without an official expression of intentions to the United Nations Secretary General (Javier Perez de Cuellar), the Japanese Government does not intend to change its current policies," Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said.

Nakayama said an Iraqi radio broadcast stating that President Saddam Husayn had ordered Iraqi troops out of Kuwait lacked credibility, and would not be regarded as proof of Iraq's acceptance of U.N. Security Council demands for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

"The Iraqi Government has made various announcements, but they have been unreliable," Nakayama told reporters following a 10-minute cabinet meeting.

The cabinet meeting, held shortly after Radio Baghdad reported that Iraqi troops had been ordered to retreat from Kuwait, did not discuss the latest development.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu also urged Iraq on Tuesday to proceed with an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait to avert further destruction from the war. "It is very important to make efforts to stop (the war) before there is total destruction," Kaifu told the House of Representatives Budget Committee. He called for an early return to peace so that reconstruction efforts could begin.

"It is not too late to implement the United Nations Security Council resolutions on an immediate, unconditional withdrawal," Kaifu said, though he said it would have been better for Iraq to make the decision before the ground war was launched on Sunday.

He said that Iraq's position is still unclear, but that the announced withdrawal, if it meets the U.N. Security Council demands, could be a "turning point" in the crisis.

Kaifu said that after the war Japan would assist in helping clean up the "unimaginable environmental destruction" caused by oil pollution.

Experts say more than 10 million barrels of oil have gushed into the Persian Gulf since the U.S.-led multinational forces launched air attacks against Iraqi-occupied Kuwait and Iraq on January 17.

Kaifu indicated that the pledges to assist postwar reconstruction would not affect economic assistance programs to Asia.

Economic aid to Asia has not been linked with the crisis so far, Kaifu said, pledging that Japan will continue with a "positive" approach to its aid program in Asia.

Finance Official: Announcement 'Vague'

OW2602020791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—A high-ranking Finance Ministry official said Tuesday morning that Iraq's announcement to withdraw from Kuwait is too vague for the allied forces in the Persian Gulf to end the war.

The official said the reported decision by Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait does not clarify whether the move is based on a recognition of Kuwait. "The battle would go on unless this point is made clear," he said.

The official also indicated that the report was not clear on whether Baghdad ordered a ceasefire, causing uncertainty for allied forces currently deployed within Iraqi territory.

Radio Baghdad reported at about 2230 GMT on Monday that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had ordered troops to withdraw to positions they held before August 1 1990, in compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 660.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said in Washington, however, that the United States will continue the war as Iraq has neither made contact with the United States nor any authorized person at the United Nations.

Kaifu Urges U.S. To Honor Views on Gulf Aid

OW2602065991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0605 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, responding to the U.S. inclusion of Tokyo's 9 billion dollar Persian Gulf contribution in a preliminary war budget, said Tuesday Washington should honor Japan's views on how to disburse the money.

"The bulk of the 9 billion dollars will go to the United States ... but (Washington) should respect the ideas of Japan, which is providing the money," Kaifu told a House of Representatives Budget Committee.

On Friday, U.S. President George Bush submitted a budget request to Congress based on the assumption that

commitments from Japan and other foreign countries, totaling 51 billion dollars, will be honored.

Kaifu said he believed the budget calculations were based on "American hopes and expectations," and reiterated that Japanese donations are to be funneled through the Gulf peace fund. The fund is jointly administered by Japan and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, which is based in Riyadh.

Japan provided 2 billion dollars last fall to the 28-nation allied forces through the fund, with most of it earmarked for the U.S.

The latest 9 billion dollar pledge, made after the U.S. launched air attacks against occupied Kuwait and Iraq, must be approved by the Diet before it can be given to the fund.

Japan has also promised 2 billion dollars to assist Egypt, Jordan, Turkey, and other countries whose economies have been hard hit by the crisis.

Aid Going Not Only to U.S.

OW2602140991 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Testifying before a House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting today, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu reclarified the view that Japan's $9 billion in additional assistance to the multinational forces is to go strictly to the Gulf Peace Fund. He said that the assistance is not meant to be allocated entirely for the United States.

The Diet began deliberating, at the House of Representatives Budget Committee, the draft 1990 supplementary budget, which seeks an extension of the $9 billion in additional aid to the multinational forces. In the morning session, Hajime Funada and Kuniyoshi Hatoyama of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and Keiji Sato of the opposition Social Democratic Party [SDPJ] interpellated the government.

In his interpellation, LDP member Funada said that Iraq is reportedly destroying the environment by setting Kuwaiti oil wells on fire and, according to Amnesty International, is torturing and executing Kuwaiti people. He said this is a grave criminal act that can not be forgiven and asked the prime minister what he thought about it.

In reply, Prime Minister Kaifu said that, according to reports, Iraq destroyed oil wells while Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz was holding consultations with Soviet President Gorbachev on a peace proposal. He said that the Kuwaiti people are also reportedly being slaughtered. He then added that these are unforgivable acts and he wants to strongly call for an immediaate end to them.

Meanwhile, SDPJ member Sato noted that the supplementary budget bill introduced to the U.S. Congress by the U.S. administration on 22 February has the full amount of Japan's $9 billion additional contribution earmarked in it. He then asked why there is a discrepancy with the government's conventional reply that it would be distributed to all member nations of the multinational forces.

In response, Prime Minister Kaifu said that Japan had properly notified the United States of the arrangement that the $9 billion additional aid will be distributed to all member nations through the Gulf Peace Fund. Even the United States, he said, has stated that the $9 billion would be defrayed, in part, to Britain and France.

A majority of the aid may result in allocation to the United States, the nucleus of the multinational forces, but its distribution will be decided by the Steering Committee of the Gulf Peace Fund, he said. The United States, he added, is well aware of this. He thus reclarified the view that the additional contribution is not meant to be allocated entirely to the United States.

Post-Gulf War Aid to Middle East Considered

OW2502102091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0937 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Japan is studying emergency grant in aid to Iraq, Kuwait, and other Middle East nations, with an eye to postwar reconstruction in the war-ravaged region, government sources said Monday.

The sources said the government plans to offer both Iraq and Kuwait hundreds of millions of yen worth of food, medicine and other forms of aid, through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and other international organizations.

With its grant funds set aside in the current fiscal year dried up due to earlier aid for the rescuing of war refugees, the government is likely to disburse the money from the reserve fund in the budget.

The planned emergency aid will be included in a framework for Japan's contribution to the postwar restructuring of the Middle East, currently being studied by the government, the sources said.

The framework will also focus on restoration of the regional social infrastructure devastated by the war and aid to frontline nations.

In assisting in infrastructure restructuring in Kuwait, the government plans to extend technological rather than financial support, in view of the country's abundant wealth abroad, estimated at 100 billion dollars or more, the sources said.

For Iraq, however, the government has no plan for such aid, as long as Saddam Hyusayn is in power, they said.

The sources said assistance to the frontline nations will possibly be made through creation of a new fund, and not via the proposed multinational bank for postwar

reconstruction of the Middle East, put forward by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, since it is feared that the creation of such a bank will take too long to realize.

Officials Note Arabs Eyeing Postwar Initiatives

OW2602145091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1421 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Eight Arab nations, including the six member-countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), plus Egypt and Syria, are currently discussing initiatives for post- Persian Gulf war security and reconstruction, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said Tuesday. Japan learned of the discussions, though their content has yet to be specified, during a visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Koji Watanabe to Syria, the officials said.

Watanabe, currently on a four-nation Middle East swing, met with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in Damascus on Sunday after arriving in the country, they said. They said the Syrian foreign minister stressed that postwar security must be arranged by countries of the region themselves.

He told Watanabe that Syria also hopes for the holding of an international conference to mull possible Israeli withdrawal from the Israeli-occupied areas and realization of the rights of Palestinians, the officials said.

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait. The six, plus Egypt and Syria, held a policy meeting earlier this month and another is set for early March at which their scheme for postwar cooperation is expected to be announced, Japanese officials said.

Japan last fall extended 2 billion dollars in aid to the allied forces through the GCC and another 2 billion dollars in economic aid for Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, which were hard hit by the crisis. The government is to give an additional 9 billion dollars for the allies through the GCC, pending final approval by the Diet, expected this week.

Officials have said Japan is ready to extend humanitarian and economic assistance for the postwar Gulf reconstruction, but the ministry officials on Tuesday said specific requests are yet to come from the eight Arab nations.

Syrian Foreign Ministry officials thanked Watanabe for Japan's economic and political contributions during the current crisis, they said. Syria is part of the U.S.-led anti-Iraq coalition.

Watanabe was to arrive in Saudi Arabia on Tuesday and is scheduled to continue on to Egypt and Algeria to exchange views with government officials there.

Meanwhile, Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada has been in Israel from Sunday. In his talks with Israeli Foreign Ministry Director General Reuven Merhav the same day, Owada pointed out that a positive Israeli response to the Arabs would be vitally important for a comprehensive Middle East peace, in a reference to the Palestinian issue.

The Israeli official stressed the need for a postwar political arrangement that would assure long-term stability in the region, but did not reveal any fresh approach to the Palestine question, Japanese officials said.

Owada expressed Japan's gratitude for Israel's self-restraint despite a series of Iraqi missile attacks.

Owada also briefly met with Foreign Minister David Levy, Defense Minister Moshe Arens and the mayor of Jerusalem, before leaving Israel Tuesday, they said.

Government To Send More Oil Spill Cleanup Gear

OW2602112391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1045 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—The government decided Tuesday to provide additional gear needed to contain the oil spill in the Persian Gulf, government officials said. Japan will provide 16 kilometers of oil containment booms, 30 oil skimmers, and 10 boats to recover oil as requested by Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Bahrain, the officals said. Japan has also decided to supply an additional 35 kilometers of oil booms to Saudi Arabia, they said.

MITI Survey Shows Gulf War Hurting Industries

OW2502140991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—The Persian Gulf war is finally taking a toll on Japanese industries, according to a survey by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

The survey shows a cloud has appeared on the Japanese business horizon after a long expansion of domestic industries, ministry officials said Monday. Details of the survey results will be announced on Friday, they said.

"A sense of uncertainty is rapidly spreading among some business areas although it doesn't point to a recession," when compared with the results of two previous surveys in August and November, an official said.

The latest survey, conducted on February 20, covered some 150 major companies in 19 industrial sectors.

Leasing companies appear to be suffering the worst, while textile and paper industries are also hurting.

Capital spending in the fiscal 1991, which begins April 1, is expected to slow and could drop sharply if the war in the Persian Gulf continues for an extended period, the survey shows.

It also shows some companies are also experiencing difficulty in raising funds as a result of current tighter credit conditions, the officials said.

MITI Says Oil Supply Worries Diminishing

OW2602112191 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) on Tuesday said prospects for stability in supplies of crude oil have improved as a result of Iraq's announcement that it is withdrawing from Kuwait.

But the ministry said reconstruction of destroyed oil refining facilities in the petroleum producing countries will take a long time.

"If a large part of the oil wells and oil refinery facilities in Kuwait and Iraq have been destroyed during the war, it's going to take a considerable time to rebuild them," an official of the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy said.

The MITI-affiliated agency plans to expand the production quotas of domestic refiners if dwindling imports of oil products requires it, the official said.

The agency will allow Japanese oil refiners to boost their production capacity for consumer fuel oil such as kerosene and gasoline, he said.

Another MITI official said the ministry will promote strict arms control as a prerequisite for future Japanese investment in the region.

MITI will also call for tighter control on arms exports, especially those of nuclear and chemical weapons.

"International efforts to prevent concentration of arms exports to one country are quite important," the official said.

The ministry is also preparing for requests it expects from trading houses and other Japanese firms to provide a total of 700 billion yen worth of commercial credit for Kuwait and Iraq once trade sanctions are lifted, the official said.

DPRK Party Official Continues Visit to Tokyo

Seeks Ties 'This Year'

OW2402093591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0849 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 24 KYODO—North Korea hopes to see diplomatic relations with Japan established this year, a senior North Korean official said in Tokyo Sunday. Kim Yong-sun, secretary for international affairs of the (North) Korean Workers' Party [KWP], also showed flexibility on Pyongyang's demand that Japan pay compensation for alleged war damage. The North Korean demand is viewed as one of the major areas of contention in negotiations between Japan and North Korea aimed at establishing diplomatic ties.

Kim said that contrary to Japanese press reports portraying the talks as facing difficulties, he is pleased with their pace so far. "I think the future is bright," Kim said in an interview with Japanese reporters, expressing hope that the talks will be successfully concluded this year.

Kim is currently on an eight-day visit to Japan, which ends Wednesday, as head of a 35-member North Korean party delegation. The group was invited by Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the largest opposition party, the Social Democratic Party [SDP].

Japan and North Korea set out their positions in the first round of normalization talks in Pyongyang in January, but made little progress in overcoming differences. The two-day session was the first since Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean peninsula ended with Japan's World War II defeat. The two countries are scheduled to hold the second round in Tokyo on March 11.

Kim, the most senior North Korean official to visit Japan, said Japan should compensate North Korea for virtually freezing relations since the end of the war, but indicated flexibility on reparations could be arranged. "Whether the 36-year (colonial) compensation comes first, and the 45-year (post-war) is done later will be worked out in the government negotiations," he said.

Kim, however, had nothing new to offer on another major issue, Japan's demand that Pyongyang open its nuclear facilities to international inspection. Kim reiterated the North Korean position that concern about nuclear weapons also should apply to South Korea. He also said a recent offer by Japan's powerful conservative politician Shin Kanemaru to mediate between North Korea and the United States was constructive.

In a speech in Osaka on Friday, Kanemaru, a former deputy prime minister, proposed that North Korea and the United States have top-level contacts. He also said he is ready to be a liaison between Pyongyang and Washington.

Kanemaru visited North Korea last September and agreed with North Korean leader Kim Il-Song to urge North Korea and Japan to open talks toward establishing diplomatic ties.

Japan is under pressure from Washington and Seoul not to normalize relations unless Pyongyang agrees to nuclear inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Kim met with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Friday in an unscheduled meeting, and is to meet with SDP Chairwoman Takako Doi and other opposition leaders before returning home.

Kim, in a separate interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE later Sunday, said the improved relations

between North Korea and Japan is based on a joint declaration signed by the KWP, LDP and SDP. The joint declaration, released in Pyongyang last September, pledged that Japan will pay "full compensation" for Japan's 1910- 1945 colonial rule and the "losses inflicted upon the North Korean people in the ensuing 45 years."

Kim accused the United States of obstructing the North Korea-Japan negotiations, and said Washington has nothing to do with the relations between the two countries.

He thanked Kanemaru for his readiness to mediate between North Korea and the U.S. but said the U.S. should negotiate directly with North Korea over nuclear inspections.

Successful talks between North Korea and the government in South Korea depend on South Korean attitudes, Kim said. The talks must lead to an agreement to unify the two Koreas, he said. He quoted North Korean President Kim Il-song as saying he is not opposed to holding summit meetings with South Korean President No Tae-u if the talks will bring unification to the peninsula.

Says Talks 'Making Good Progress'

OW2502114991 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—The negotiations between Pyongyang and Tokyo on establishing diplomatic relations are making good progress, a senior North Korean official was quoted as saying Monday. Korean Workers Party (KWP) Secretary Kim Yong-sun delivered his government's view on the talks in a meeting with Takako Doi, chairwoman of Japan's No. 1 opposition party, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) which was renamed from the Japan Socialist Party earlier this month. Kim, the head of a 36-member North Korean delegation visiting Japan, said diplomatic history shows that no two countries have ever succeeded in normalizing relations in just one round of talks.

Japan and North Korea held their first round of government-level negotiations ever in late January in Pyongyang.

Doi told Kim the improvement of Japan-North Korea relations will help create an atmosphere facilitating the peaceful unification of North and South Korea, as well as peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Kim and his delegation later held talks with a nine-member SDP delegation, led by SDP Secretary General Tsuruo Yamaguchi, SDP officials said. Kim blamed Seoul for the slowing down of inter-Korean contacts, saying the "Team Spirit" joint U.S.-South Korean military exercise made it impossible to hold the fourth round of North-South prime ministers' talks as scheduled.

Pyongyang announced February 18 that it was calling off the talks, which had been scheduled to begin Monday, because of the annual exercise. North Korea has often used the military drill as a reason to cut off contacts with Seoul.

The senior Korean Workers Party official also accused South Korea of trying to interfere with the Japanese-North Korean negotiations, the SDP officials said.

In the normalization talks, Japan has urged North Korea to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to inspect its nuclear facilities to ensure they are used only for peaceful purposes. In response, Kim urged Japan on Monday to take up the issue of the more than 1,000 U.S. nuclear weapons he alleged are stationed in South Korea.

Kim told the SDP delegation that the existence of the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea is a threat, not only to North Korea but to all other Asian countries, adding that they are no longer needed because of the detente between the United States and the Soviet Union. The U.S. refuses to confirm or deny whether it has nuclear weapons in any specific location.

Kim said demands from the U.S. and South Korea that North Korea allow IAEA inspections are intended to divert Asian attention from the U.S. nuclear arsenal in South Korea.

The Korean Workers Party delegation arrived in Japan on February 20 for an eight-day visit at the invitation of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the SDP.

Sees Meeting With South at Universiad

OW2502121391 Tokyo KYODO in English 1031 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Sapporo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Kim Sang-kyum, vice president of the Korean Amateur Sports Association, indicated Monday that top sports officials of the two Koreas may meet next month at the Winter Universiad Games.

Kim told KYODO NEWS SERVICE upon arrival at Chitose Airport in Sapporo, however, that such contact would be unofficial.

"Officials (of the two sides) may see each other if athletes mingle naturally at such places as the athletes village, thus contributing to the creation of an atmoshphere of mutual exchange," he said.

Meanwhile, Pak Myong-chol, first vice chairman of the State Physical Culture and Sports Committee, is heading the North Korean delegation to the Sapporo games set to begin on March 2.

Dialogue between prime ministers of the two Koreas has been suspended as a result of the U.S.-South Korea joint military practice.

But a sports channel that was opened after the two Koreas agreed to send unified teams to the world table

tennis championships and the world youth soccer championships is still functioning.

Meets Komeito Chairman

OW2602120291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0526 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida on Tuesday urged North Korea to accept a proposed a six-nation parliamentary peace conference to promote the unification of the Korean peninsula.

He made the request in a meeting with Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the ruling Korean Workers Party (KWP) and leader of a 36-member North Korean delegation visiting Japan.

Ishida said North Korea, South Korea, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and Japan should open a parliamentary-level peace conference to contribute to the unification of the two Koreas.

Kim replied that North Korea will support such a conference if it will help the peaceful unification of North and South Korea.

The six-nation parliamentary conference was proposed by Kim Yong-sam, a senior official of the ruling South Korean Democratic Liberal Party, in a meeting with Ishida in Seoul last December.

Ishida told the North Korean senior official that the unification of the two Koreas is imperative for peace in Asia and the world.

Kim said it is very important for Asian people to make their own destiny to secure peace and stability in the region.

Kim later met Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) Secretary General Takashi Yonezawa and United Social Democratic Party (USDP) leader Satsuki Eda.

Yonezawa said the DSP asked North Korea to allow Japanese women who married North Korean men to make visits to Japan even before the normalization of relations between Japan and North Korea.

Kim replied that North Korea will make a positive response on the issue if the negotiations between the two countries on improving relations make more progress.

Eda told Kim the USDP will make every effort to help the promotion of the negotiations to open the way for the normalization of relations between the two countries.

Hashimoto To Fight U.S. Legislation on Finance

OW2602111491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1001 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on Tuesday reiterated his determination to fight U.S. legislation that would force Japan to further open its financial markets.

Hashimoto told the House of Representatives budget committee that a bill passed recently by the U.S. Senate could be applied to deny foreign access to U.S. financial markets and might undermine world economic development.

The bill would allow U.S. regulators to reject applications for business expansion by Japanese and other foreign financial institutions if their home countries are found to be discriminating against American financial enterprises.

"On the part of Japan, the stance of opposition remains unchanged, and we would appeal to U.S. officials concerned to scrap the legislation," Hashimoto said in response to a question by an opposition lawmaker.

Meanwhile, Bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno told the committee that bilateral talks are needed to avoid a confrontation between Tokyo and Washington on financial trade.

Accord Reached With U.S. on Reciprocal Flights

OW2302095691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—Japan and the United States on Saturday reached final agreement on new reciprocal air services by their airlines, Transport Ministry officials said.

The accord came at bilateral civil aviation talks, which started in Tokyo last Thursday.

Under the permanent agreement, Japan and the U.S. will permit their airlines to extend five temporary services beyond March 2 and inaugurate five new routes between the two nations on or after March 3, officials said.

The five new services are passenger flights from Narita to New York by All Nippon Airways, to Washington by Japan Airlines, to Honolulu by Japan Air System, and from San Jose to Narita by American Airlines, and a cargo flight to Los Angeles by Nippon Cargo Airlines.

At the talks held last month, a temporary accord was reached on cargo flights. Specifically, the U.S. Transportation Department allowed five weekly cargo flights by Japan Airlines and Nippon Cargo Airlines to Chicago and Los Angeles until March 2.

In return, Japan agreed to extend until March 2 United Airlines passenger flights between Chicago and Narita. It also permitted cargo services by United Parcel Service and Delta Air Lines.

The bilateral talks are based on agreement reached in November 1989 to open 14 new routes between the two nations.

On flights between Narita and American cities, four routes were allotted to U.S. airlines and six to Japanese. The U.S., however, later demanded that Japan give more convenient time slots to U.S. airlines.

In the latest talks, Japanese and U.S. airlines readjusted their arrival and departure times at Narita, opening the way for a final accord, Transport Ministry officials said.

PRAVDA Science Editor on Nuclear Issues

OW2202130791 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 22 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev may ask Japan to help his country construct nuclear and other types of power plants during his first visit to Japan, a visiting Soviet science journalist said Friday.

Vladimir Gubarev, chief science editor at the Soviet official newspaper PRAVDA, said Soviet authorities are considering asking for Japanese cooperation in building a one-million-kilowatt-class nuclear power plant in Khabarovsk, the Maritime Province of Siberia.

Gorbachev is expected to visit Japan in mid-April.

Gubarev is leading a group of Soviet science journalists on a visit to Japan and made the remarks at a meeting with several Japanese journalists in Tokyo.

The Soviet Government also is considering a joint venture with Japan to build a large tidal power generating plant on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk and a geothermal power plant in Kamchatka, he said.

In a Japan-Soviet economic meeting last month, the Soviets proposed joint construction projects for natural gas development, but power plant construction was not mentioned.

Gubarev said the Soviet Union has faced difficulty in developing its Far East district because of insufficient energy supplies. Soviet authorities are expected to ask Japan to cooperate in introducing energy-saving technologies as well as power plant construction. To promote regional economic cooperation with Japan, the national government is likely to give the Siberia Maritime Province more autonomy in the near future, the Soviet journalist said.

He stressed that he hopes Japan will not withhold economic cooperation from his country because of the political conflict between the Soviet Union and the Baltic republics. He said the Baltics issue generally has been discussed only from an ethnic aspect but it should be considered from other points, such as economic interdependence between the Soviet Union and its republics.

Belorussian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

OW2502135491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1254 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—Japan is set to conclude an agreement in April aimed at training Soviet radiation experts in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl accident, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday. The signing will take place when Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev visits Tokyo on April 16-19, the official said.

Japan has already pledged 2.6 billion yen in medical aid through the World Health Organization (WHO) to help buy basic equipment such as fiber scopes and ultrasonic inspection devices, the official said.

Japan will dispatch a mission to Moscow next week of government officials to determine Soviet needs.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said the assistance pledged through the U.N.-affiliated organization will soon be disbursed following the recommendation of radiation experts.

Nakayama made the comment in a meeting with Vyacheslav Kebich, prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Belorussia, who spoke of the need for international assistance after the disaster.

Belorussia was down wind from the Chernobyl nuclear accident, which took place in the neighboring Republic of Ukraine.

Kebich, who arrived in Japan on Monday as head of a mission seeking to promote economic ties with the republic, told Nakayama that 2.2 million of Belorussia's 10 million people are in the contaminated areas affecting 70 percent of the republic's soil. He said residents of poisoned areas urgently needed to be relocated and the infrastructure rebuilt.

Kebich told Nakayama that Moscow's evacuation efforts have concentrated on the vicinity closest to the reactor and that more attention must be given to measures for the fallout-hit Belorussia.

Kebich, due to stay in Japan through Sunday, will also meet with business figures in Tokyo and Osaka and local leaders of Akita and Sendai.

Calls for Close Economic Ties

OW2602112791 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 26 KYODO—Soviet Belorussian Republic leader Vyacheslav Kebich called Tuesday for Japan to promote bilateral economic relations, saying the republic is now preparing to introduce a market economy. Kebich, prime minister of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, said his republic has sufficient potential to catch up in advanced technologies in which it is currently lagging behind other industrialized countries. The prime minister, speaking at a press conference in Tokyo, said the republic has been producing 30 percent of such goods as automobiles and electronics in the Soviet Union.

Belorussia will be able to provide lands and energy at low prices to foreign companies, said Kebich, who called for Japanese business circles to focus their attention on the

western Soviet republic. Referring to laws on the protection of foreign investments recently established by parliament, he expressed the hope that Japan and the republic would establish close economic ties as soon as possible. Kebich also emphasized that Belorussia will stay within the framework of a new federation plan proposed by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Asked about moves against Moscow by the Russian Republic led by President Boris Yeltsin, Kebich said he would not comment on the matter until the results of a referendum in the republic are out.

Kebich, who arrived in Japan on Monday on a one-week visit, is scheduled to meet business figures in Tokyo and Osaka, as well as with local leaders of Akita and Sendai in northern Japan.

Soviets To Deliver List of Dead POW's

OW2302015291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0120 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Sendai, Feb. 23 KYODO—The Soviet Union will deliver to a Japanese group a list of dead prisoners of war (POWs) in Siberia prior to President Mikhail Gorbachev's scheduled visit to Japan in mid-April, the leader of an association of former Japanese POWs in Siberia said Saturday.

Rokuro Saito, president of the All-Japan Former Internees Association, said a delegation of the Soviet-Japan Mutual Understanding Association will deliver the list of some 40,000 dead Japanese POWs to the Tsuruoka-based private group when bilateral friendship organizations establish a united mutual understanding association in early April in Niigata.

Saito added the Tsuruoka-based association will disclose the list before Gorbachev's visit beginning April 16.

In early December, Aleksey Kirichenko, chairman of the Soviet-Japan Mutual Understanding Association, signed an agreement to hand over documents on some 600,000 Japanese POWs to the Japanese group, and handed over an initial list of 1,444 dead Japanese POWs.

Kirichenko, a senior official at the Oriental Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, has said that Gorbachev will also bring a list of Japanese POWs who died in Siberia after the end of World War II, to be delivered to the Tokyo government.

The government strongly demanded that the documents of Japanese POWs be released through official channels rather than private organizations.

Of the total number of Japanese POWs, some 70,000 are believed to have died while engaged in forced labor in Siberia, according to an official of the Health and Welfare Ministry.

New List of POW Dead

OW2602131891 Tokyo KYODO in English 1120 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tsuruoka, Yamagata Pref., Feb. 26 KYODO—The dire starvation and intensive forced labor of Japanese World War II POW's in Soviet Siberian camps is reflected in a newly-released list of 1,558 dead detainees.

The list, disclosed on Tuesday by the All-Japan Former Internees Association in Tsuruoka, Yamagata Prefecture, includes 1,129 POW's at a concentration camp in Tayshet, Irkutsk, and 429 at a similar facility in the Cherevkovo region.

The Soviet list gives the names, birthdays and dates of burial, and is accompanied by the layout of a cemetery for the Japanese nationals prepared by Soviet authorities. The birthplaces of the prisoners were not recorded.

The death rate was higher among the internees in the Tayshet region than at the other camp because they were engaged in hard labor, including construction of a second Trans-Siberian railway which involved the transport of heavy rails and sleepers in freezing cold, former POW's said.

A cold wave swept across the Tayshet region from 1945 through 1946, causing the death of many Japanese POW's at a special hospital there. The deaths totaled 74 in February 1946 alone, the former POW's said. The association officials said 3,000 of 39,000 Japanese detainees spread among some 60 camps in the Tayshet region died.

The officials said 429 other Japanese detainees died in the Cherevkovo region. Health and Welfare Ministry data had put the number at 1,100.

Last year, a Soviet historian told a Tokyo symposium that nearly 600,000 Japanese, mostly soldiers but including some civilians, were taken to Soviet camps for railway construction and other forms of hard physical work after Japan was defeated in 1945. Aleksey Kirichenko, a senior official at the Oriental Studies Institute of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, said some of the Japanese POW's were sent to Mongolia, and the remains of the dead, except for those of a few high-ranking commanders, were not returned to Japan.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to bring a new list of 38,000 deceased former Soviet labor camp detainees when he comes to Tokyo this April in the first ever visit to Japan by a Soviet leader.

Crown Prince Naruhito Officially Proclaimed Heir

OW2302031191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0224 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 23 KYODO—Crown Prince Naruhito was officially proclaimed heir to the Chrysanthemum throne in a traditional ceremony at the Imperial Palace on Saturday, his 31st birthday.

The ceremony called "Rittaishi-no-rei" began at 11 a.m. in the Matsu-no-ma (state room) of the Imperial Palace before some 250 dignitaries, including government officials and members of the diplomatic corps.

At the outset of the 15-minute ceremony, which dates back to the Heian Era (794-1192), Emperor Akihito declared his eldest son his official heir.

Prince Naruhito, who wore a formal court robe in reddish yellow called an "oninoho," expressed his resolve as heir to the throne, saying that he will do his best to fulfill his official.

At the end of the ceremony, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu offered a congratulatory message to the crown prince, saying the whole nation has celebrated the holding of the "Rittaishi-no-rei" and prays for the prosperity of the imperial family.

Prince Naruhito then proceeded to another room and was given an ancestral sword called a "Tsubokiri-no-gyoken" by the emperor as a symbol of the crown prince.

He paid homage to three shrines in the compounds of the Imperial Palace, Kashiko-dokoro, Korei-den, and Shinden, to report his official investiture as the emperor's heir to the imperial ancestral spirits.

Prince Naruhito is scheduled to host three court banquets for some 1,000 guests on Sunday and Monday at the Homeiden (state banquet room) in the Imperial Palace.

Born on February 23, 1960, the prince graduated from Gakushuin University and went to Britain in 1983 to study European history in the Middle Ages at Oxford University's Merton College for two years.

The selection of his wife has been the focus of public attention since his younger brother Prince Aya married Kiko Kawashima, his classmate and a daughter of a university professor, last June.

Chukakuha Responsible for Guerrilla Attacks

OW2502063691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0609 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 25 KYODO—The radical leftist group Chukakuha (Middle Core Faction) on Monday claimed responsibility for a series of guerrilla attacks Saturday, the day of the investiture ceremony for Crown Prince Naruhito.

In a letter received by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, the group said it launched the attacks to protest the ceremony and the "war of aggression" by the U.S.-led multinational forces in the Persian Gulf.

In one of the series of incidents Saturday morning, three projectiles were fired at a residential area in Naka ward, Yokohama, for U.S. Navy personnel in Japan. One projectile landed on a lawn after piercing the roof of a house in the district, according to police.

There were no reports of injuries or major damage in the attacks, which included a fire at the home in Fuchu, Tokyo, of Lt. Gen. Hiroshi Hosshyo, chief of Air Defense Command of the Air Self- Defense Force, and the launching of projectiles near Narita Airport in Chiba Prefecture.

North Korea

Army Orders 'Full Combat Mobilization Posture'

SK2602151891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1300 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Korean People's Army Information (Podo) released on 26 February 91—read by announcer]

[Text] The Korean People's Army [KPA] supreme commander has released an order to all units of the KPA and the Korean Security Forces and all members of the Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards to assume a combat mobilization posture.

Despite the unanimous protest and denunciation of all the Korean people and the world's peace-loving people, the U.S. and South Korean warmongers again this year have after all started the adventurous Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise, thus aggravating the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war.

This is an unforgivable challenge to our Republic and our people that are making sincere efforts for peace on the Korean Peninsula and its peaceful reunification and is an intolerable crime that will again lead the situation on the Korean Peninsula to a very dangerous vortex.

Because of this reckless nuclear war exercise, the North-South high-level talks and all other forms of dialogue, which gave great expectations among all the fellow countrymen and the world's peace-loving people, have undergone a grave crisis, and our just proposals for the reunification of the fatherland, which have provided the entire nation with bright prospects and hope, and our sincere efforts have come to meet a challenge.

A new bud for detente has disappeared from the Korean Peninsula, and a very dangerous situation in which fire may be set on the powder keg has been promoted

Since late last year, the United States and the South Korean authorities have openly exposed their attempt to forcibly conduct the criminal Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise and have repeatedly held war confabs. Based on U.S. aggressive policies on Korea, already late last year, under the plausible pretext of war against crimes, the South Korean puppets kicked up suppression commotions against the patriotic forces of reunification and strengthened a military fascist system in preparation for war by mobilizing all sorts of forces of suppression

totaling millions of people, including numerous troops of the puppet forces, police, and reserve forces.

From the very beginning of the New Year, the United States brought numerous ultramodern operational equipment of all sorts, nuclear-equipped fighter-bombers, and weapons of mass murder from overseas into South Korea and have endlessly conducted provocative joint war exercises against us together with the puppets. They have also systematically committed various military provocations and espionage acts against the northern half.

After even turning a deaf ear to our conciliatory, sincere proposal that a North-South nonaggression declaration be adopted by consensus and tha[illegible]he aggressive Team Spirit joint military exercise be completely suspended or be suspended for at least two or three years, the United States and the South Korean puppets challenged us by again starting a nuclear war exercise. Not only the U.S. forces occupying South Korea and the puppet forces but also massive forces of aggression from the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region will be mobilized in this war exercise; a mobile deployment started late January; and the exercise will continue up until later April. Joint landing operations, aerial mobile strike operations, river-crossing operations, commando operations, and other important operations will be conducted during this period.

As has been exposed, the Team Spirit joint military exercise, in view of its content and nature, is a thoroughly aggressive exercise and a preliminary war and a test nuclear war to launch a surprise preemptive strike at the northern half of our Republic.

It is a well-known fact that the United States and the South Korean authorities have already completed preparations for the armed aggression against our Republic in the Team Spirit joint military exercise, which they have annually conducted since 1976.

Because the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets forcibly started the adventurous Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise after all, a dark cloud of a nuclear catastrophe is hovering over the head of our people in reality, and an emergency state is being promoted in our country in which a new war may break out.

Today, when the Gulf war has been turning into a bloody catastrophe, there is no guarantee that the Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise itself will not turn into an actual war. The United States and the South Korean puppets are kicking up fanatic war commotions to provoke a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula, thus eternally blocking the road toward peace and peaceful reunification and obliterating our Republic by force of arms. Moreover, we can in no way turn a blind eye to the ominous moves by the United States and the South Korean puppets to take advantage of, for impure purposes, a power imbalance created by our reduction of 100,000 troops on our active initiative.

In response to the grave situation in which, because of the reckless military provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the danger of a new war is being created in our country, the KPA supreme commander has released an order to all units of the KPA and the Korean Security Forces and all members of the Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards that they, with high revolutionary vigilance, will assume a full [manbanui] combat mobilization posture. The officers and men of the KPA and the Korean Security Forces, who have been mobilized in peaceful economic construction, have also been ordered to be fully ready to be mobilized any time on an emergency basis. This is a just self-defensive measure to cope with the new war maneuvers by the United States and the South Korean puppets. The United States and the South Korean authorities must clearly know that our patient efforts have their limits and they must immediately stop the aggressive Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise.

Our people love peace and do not want confrontation and war. Our party and the government of the Republic will make all efforts to alleviate tension on the Korean Peninsula and to provide preconditions for peace and peaceful reunification.

If the United States and the South Korean puppets, miscalculating that our peace-loving efforts mean our weakness, embark upon a road toward the war of aggression after all, our revolutionary Armed Forces and all the Korean people will rise up like one to fight to defend the sacred socialist fatherland and the valuable revolutionary achievements.

All units of the KPA and the Korean Security Forces, all members of the Worker-Peasant Militia and the Red Youth Guards, and all the people will, with high revolutionary vigilance, assume a full [manbanui] combat mobilization posture to crush in a timely manner any provocation maneuver by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, thus having an airtight defense of the land, sea, and air of the fatherland.

Team Spirit Held Responsible for Rupture of Talks

NODONG SINMUN Article

SK2602112491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1016 GMT 26 Feb 91

["War Exercise Is Incompatible With Dialogue—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises being staged this year again by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are deliberate manoeuvres to cast a chill over the ardent desire of the nation for reunification, lead North-South dialogue to a rupture and turn the current of the situation from peace and reunification to confrontation and war, says NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today.

It notes:

War exercise is incompatible with dialogue. Dialogue cannot be held in a powder-reeking atmosphere of war and any success cannot be expected from it even if it were held. It is a lesson drawn from the North-South dialogues of the past.

The claim that the joint military exercises being staged against the dialogue partner with the mobilisation of huge armed forces enough to carry out a whole war do not have any influence upon North-South dialogue is a jargon that can be made only by warmaniacs.

We advanced a flexible proposal for the United States and the South Korean authorities to tentatively stop the war game during the North-South high-level talks, if they find it hard to put a lid on it for good. However, they started the aggressive war exercises, and the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks slated for February 25 could not be opened as scheduled.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities declared an "emergency wartime system" throughout South Korea with the outbreak of the Gulf war with which we have nothing to do, shunning our peace proposal, and are staging the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises. This is an act that can be committed only by those who try to break up dialogue and flee from it.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities have talked noisily about "scaling down" of the "team spirit" joint military exercises to make it appear that it is an expression of their "concern" for dialogue. But it is a nonsense. The "scaling down" of the joint military exercises is nothing but a fig leaf for diverting public criticism elsewhere.

The criminal nature and seriousness of the current war game lie in that the South Korean authorities launched into it together with the U.S. imperialist aggressors, knowing only too well that the "team spirit" is directly linked to the fate of the North-South high-level talks.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities are interested in the relaxation of tensions on the Korean Peninsula and dialogue, they must apologize for their grave act in having brought dialogue to suspension and stop the provocative "team spirit" joint military exercises, though belatedly.

MINJU CHOSON Comments

SK2602114391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 26 Feb 91

["South Korea Is To Blame"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 26 (KCNA)—The North-South high-level talks slated for February 25 could not be held as scheduled because the South Korean authorities are staging the provocative "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, coiling up tensions and leading the situation to the perilous brink of war, says MINJU CHOSON in a commentary today. The news analyst notes: The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities as an annual event are a preliminary war and a test nuclear war aimed at a "pre- emptive strike" at the northern half of our Republic. That is why the dangerous situtation in which a war may break out any moment was created on the Korean Peninsula and North-South dialogue was brought to a suspension or rupture each time the war game was staged. We have made every possible effort and taken all measures in order to guarantee peace and put North-South high-level talks on a normal basis. We took all opportunities of strongly demanding a halt to the war exercises leading dialogue to breakdown and threatening peace even after the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities announced the program of the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises on January 25. The No Tae-u ruling group, however, denied all our proposals for peace and answered this by starting the "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises. Herein lies the reason why the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks was not held as planned. The South Korean rulers have been hell-bent on the war exercises against the fellow countrymen in conspiracy with the foreign forces, putting aside dialogue with the fellow countrymen. With no excuse and sophism can they evade their responsibility for the criminal act of blocking the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks slated for February 25. The No Tae-u ruling group should apologize to the nation for its criminal act and discontinue even now the provocative "Team Spirit 91" joint military exercises, albeit belatedly.

Commentary Faults South for Breakup of Dialogue

SK2202123891 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Commentary by station commentator Chong Pong-kil: "A Poor Excuse by Those Who Do Not Want Dialogue"]

[Text] According to news reports, the person holding the title of spokesman for the puppet Ministry of National Unification Board issued a statement on the statement released by the North side's delegation to the North-South high-level talks on 18 February.

This person provoked us in the so-called statement about our statement. Our statement had said that the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks could not be held as scheduled because an urgent situation capable of triggering a war at any time had been created in our country as a result of the commotions of the Team Spirit-91 war exercise kicked up by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets. This person babbled about a strategy toward the South being applied. This is nothing but a brazen-faced sophistry designed to mislead public opinion at home and abroad, as well as being an open challenge to us.

As everyone knows, the South Korean puppets declared an emergency war situation across South Korea under

the pretext of the nonexistent threat of southward invasion in the wake of the war in the Gulf. And now they have frantically put in motion an extremely provocative Team Spirit-91 joint military exercise with the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. imperialist troops of aggression occupying South Korea and the puppet army have already been put on emergency alert in preparation for going into action, simulating a northward invasion, while a vast number of U.S. troops, weapons of mass destruction, and war equipment are being flown into South Korea from the continental United States and military bases in the Pacific.

Because of this reckless war maneuver which is being carried out nationwide in South Korea, a terror-stricken atmosphere unprecedented in history has descended upon South Korea, North-South relations have gone back to the state of acute confrontation that existed before the start of dialogue, and an urgent, precarious situation now prevails on the Korean Peninsula.

It is apparent to anyone that it is impossible to continue dialogue under circumstances in which confrontation has become acute and the danger of war is so visible. How can we sit face to face with people who are trying to descend upon their opponents in an attempt to swallow them up, sword in hand? There is nothing to gain from talking with them. It is a serious historical lesson the past North-South dialogues hold for us.

We have many times called on the South side to sign a nonaggression declaration and discontinue the Team Spirit joint military exercise in order to keep such an unfortunate thing from happening again. We even offered a flexible proposal that if the South side cannot completely discontinue the Team Spirit joint military exercise, it put off the military exercise for at least 2 to 3 years while the high-level talks are under way.

In spite of this, the South Korean puppets announced their plan to conduct the Team Spirit war exercise in defiance of our warnings, and they are leading our country to the brink of war by madly conducting the war exercise only a few days before of the fourth round of the North-South high-level talks.

There is no need to explain that their maneuver as such is, from beginning to end, a deliberate criminal act aimed at jeopardizing peace and breaking up the talks. With no sophistry can the puppets justify the Team Spirit war exercise of negating dialogue and peace, nor can they avoid the blame for having broken up the dialogue.

The so-called strategy toward the South that the No Tae-u ring babbles about is nothing but a variant of what is called the threat of a southward invasion and an impudent remark that can convince nobody.

Attempting to settle the question of national reunification by peaceful means through the development of dialogue and negotiations between the North and South is our immutable principle and position. From the beginning of this year, we have put forward new policies and proposals for national peace and peaceful reunification and have been making every sincere effort possible to turn this year into a historical year of detente and peace, a year of reconciliation and unity, as well as a year of opening a new phase for reunification.

It is universal knowledge that we have put forward proposals for reunifying the country on the basis of founding a confederal system free from a northward or southward invasion, without tolerating a victory over communism or a communization of the South, and for adopting a nonaggression declaration and have been making tireless effort to realize them.

Even so, the puppets heaped sophistic words on the so-called strategy toward the South only to justify their war maneuvers. The people of the world, however, know too well that there exists only the threat of northward invasion, not the threat of southward invasion, and they denounce the reckless war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets as a serious challenge to peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

No matter how skillful the No Tae-u ring may have become in playing with words, they can never camouflage their filthy color as ones who break off dialogue, jeopardize peace, and hinder reunification, and as ones who have not only driven North-South dialogue into a state of total breakup, but have endangered peace and thrown new serious obstacles on the road to reunification.

The No Tae-u ring will be made to pay dearly to the people for their sins of having led to the brink of a breakup the North-South high-level talks that were under way with the hope and concern of all the fellow countrymen.

The only thing that will be in store for those who swim against national desire and aspirations will be a tragic end.

WPK Delegation Continues Visit to Japan

Attends Trade Union Group Luncheon

SK2602055891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 25 (KCNA correspondent)—The president of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation gave a luncheon for the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] here today. Present on the occasion were head of the WPK delegation Kim Yong- sun, deputy head of the delegation Choe Mun-son and members Won Tong-ku and Kim Yang-kon. Present on the host side were Akira Yamagishi, president of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation, acting President Mitsunaru Warashina, deputy chief Secretaries Hiroyuki

Kawagami and Yoshihiro Tozaki, Director in Charge of International Affairs Yoichi Yamada and director of the political department Masaru Tomida. Makoto Tanabe, vice-chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic party and member of the House of Representatives, and Kunji Tabuchi, director of the labour department and member of the House of Councillors, were on hand. President Akira Yamagishi sincerely welcomed the WPK delegation in the name of the 8 million working people affiliated with the confederation. He expressed the hope that the normalisation of Japan-DPRK relations will be realised at an early date on the basis of the three-party joint declaration. The luncheon took place in a friendly atmosphere.

Meets Social Democratic Figures

SK2602060191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0508 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 25 (KCNA correspondent)—The visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] stayed in Tokyo Monday. Head of the delegation Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the WPK Central Committee, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, met separately with member of the House of Representatives Makoto Tanabe and member of the House of Councillors Wataru Kubo who are vice-chairmen of the Central Executive Committee [CEC] of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP] and had conversations with them in a friendly atmosphere. Makoto Tanabe arranged a breakfast for the delegation. Invited there were the members of the delegation headed by Kim Yong-sun and the suite members. Present there were member of the House of Councillors Sadao Yamahana, vice-chairman of the C.E.C., the JSDP; member of the House of Representatives Taneaki Tanami, member of the C.E.C. and director of the information department of the JSDP; member of the House of Councillors Hajime Fukada, member of the C.E.C. and director of the people's movement department of the JSDP; member of the House of Representatives Issei Inoue, member of the C.E.C., the JSDP; and member of the House of Representatives Yuzuru Shimazaki, chief Secretary of the Committee for Measures on Korean Affairs. Speeches were made at the breakfast which proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. Meanwhile, deputy head of the delegation Choe Mun-son, member of the C.C., the WPK, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal party committee, chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal people's committee and deputy to the SPA, called at the Tokyo metropolitan headquarters of the JSDP and the Tokyo metropolitan assembly and conversed with member of the House of Representatives Kazuo Saito, chairman of the headquarters, and Motoi Ogura, chairman of the assembly. Discussed during the conversations were matters of developing the friendly relations between the WPK and JSDP, between the DPRK and Japan and between Pyongyang Municipality and Tokyo Metropolis. Member of the delegation Won Tong-ku, member of the WPK Central Committee, chairman of the C.C., the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea and deputy to the SPA, met respectively with Akira Yamagishi, president of the Japanese Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), Yasuo Iwayama, chairman of the All-Japan Federation of Electric Machine Workers' Unions, and Makoto Tamura, chairman of the Federation of Private Railway Workers Unions of Japan, and had conversations with them.

Talks With Social Democratic Party

SK2602062591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0515 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 25 (KCNA correspondent)—A round-table conversation of Japanese public circles was held in Tokyo on Feb. 25 to hail the three-party joint declaration and promote the establishment of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations under the sponsorship of the Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP]. Invited there were the members of the delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and deputy to the SPA. Present there were member of the House of Representatives Makot Tanabe and member of the House of Councillors Wataru Kubo who are vice-chairmen of the JSDP Central Executive Committee, member of the House of Representatives Sadao Yamahana who is deputy secretary general, officials of the party and personages of various strata of Japan. Wataru Kubo made a welcome address. Warmly welcoming the Japan visit of the WPK delegation, he stressed the need to make active efforts for the improvement of the relations between the two countries, notably the establishment of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations on the basis of the friendly relaticy formed between the two parties. Then, Makoto Tanabe made a speech on the subject "On the Significance of the Three-Party Joint Declaration". He said: Korea is one. To achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea through North-South dialogue accords with the national interests of the Korean people. This is the main point of the three-party joint declaration and herein lies its significance. Noting that the abnormal state between Japan and DPRK should be removed and diplomatic relations be set up at an early date, he said that the Japan visit of the WPK delegation is a new starting point in the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations. He called for joint efforts to make the two countries "close and near countries", not "close yet far countries". Head of the WPK delegation Kim Yong-sun made a speech on the subject "on DPRK-Japan friendship in future." Answers were given to questions put by personages of different circles of Japan at the round-table conversation.

Feted by Social Democratic Party

SK2602062991 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 25 (KCNA correspondent)—The Japan Social-Democratic Party [JSDP] gave a reception

for the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] at Hotel New Otani here this evening. The members of the delegation led by Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, and its suite and reporters accompanying it were invited to the reception.

Also present on invitation were Han Tok-su, chairman, Yi Chin- kyu, first vice-chairman, and Pak Chae-no, So Man-sul, Ho Chong-man, Pae Pyong-tu and Chon Yon-sik, vice-chairmen, of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon), and other functionaries of Chongnyon.

Invited there were former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru and Hajime Ishii, LDP [Liberal Democratic Party] members of the House of Representatives.

On hand were Takako Doi, chairperson of the Central Executive Committee of the JSDP; members of the House of Representatives Makoto Tanabe, vice-chairman of the party; member of the House of Councillors Wataru Kubo, Sadao Yamahana and Rikkyu Shibusawa, deputy general secretaries of the party and members of the House of Representatives; and members of the Central Executive Committee of the party, Ippei Koyama, vice-chairman of the Japanese House of Councillors; dietmen from the JSDP, and prominent figures of all segments of Japan.

Chairperson Takako Doi made a welcome speech at the reception. Cordially welcoming the Japan visit of the WPK delegation led by Secretary Kim Yong-sun on behalf of her party, she said:

The three-party joint declaration of the Japan Social-Democratic Party, the Liberal Democratic Party and the Workers' Party of Korea was published and Japan-DPRK inter-governmental negotiation is being held thanks to the efforts of Mr. Shin Kanemaru, vice-chairman Makoto Tanabe and other officials concerned.

I had from long ago held that the improvement of Japan-DPRK relations and the friendship between the two peoples "are a matter concerning the morality of the Japanese nation". Because I thought that it was the obligation and repentance of the Japanese to atone for the history in which they deprived the Korean nation of human lives, property, language, names and workforce under the colonial rule for 36 years.

Time has flowed and the generation has changed and, at last, an opportunity has been created 45 years after the war to fulfil this moral duty. We pay cordial regards and thanks to many people and all the officials concerned who have devoted their efforts to Japan-DPRK friendship up to now.

It is high time to pool strength and make efforts for an early normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

Noting that the first WPK delegation which had been awaited for a long time came to Japan by a direct flight, she hoped that the delegation would achieve many successes during its stay.

Expressing sincere gratitude to the traditional relations of friendship between the Japan Social-Democratic Party and the Workers' Party of Korea, she asked the delegation to convey her regards to President Kim Il-song back home.

Mr. Shin Kanemaru, Vice-Chairman Makoto Tanabe and Vice-Chairman Ippei Koyama said words of greetings at the reception.

Head of the delegation Kim Yong-sun said in his speech:

Our party and the Japan Social-Democratic Party have constantly developed the bonds of friendship and solidarity in each other's favor in the course of the struggle to achieve their common goal and ideal of building a new peaceful Asia free from war.

The Japan Social-Democratic Party has exerted much efforts for many years to make Korea and Japan near and friendly countries from near yet far-away ones.

The first official contact between our party and the Liberal Democratic Party was made last year thanks to the patient efforts of the Japan Social-Democratic Party, and the three-party joint declaration setting up a guideline for putting a period to the abnormal Korea-Japan relations and making a new start toward improvement of the relations was adopted at the negotiation between our party and the JSDP and the LDP.

The historical three-party joint declaration enjoys warm welcome and support at home and abroad as it reflects the unanimous desire of the Korean and Japanese peoples to establish friendly, good neighbourly relations and be on good terms with each other.

When our party and the JSDP, together with the LDP, actively promote the improvement of Korea-Japan relations in accordance with the spirit of the three-party joint declaration the DPRK-Japan intergovernmental negotiation will progress successfully as desired by the peoples of the two countries and, finally, a new genuine history of Korea-Japan relations will begin.

To constantly consolidate and develop friendship and solidarity with the Japan Social-Democratic Party is a consistent policy of our party, Kim Yong-sun said, and declared: The Workers' Party of Korea will in the future, too, vigorously strive to build a new Asia, peaceful, free and prosperous, without war and nuclear weapons, in firm solidarity with the Japan Social-Democratic Party.

The reception took place in an atmosphere overflowing with friendship and amity.

Meets Social Democratic Official

SK2602071491 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0553 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of korea, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and deputy to the SPA, who is leading a WPK delegation on a visit to Japan, met with Tsuruo Yamaguchi, general secretary of the Central Executive Committee of the Japan Social-Democratic Party and member of the House of Representatives, here today. The head of the delegation conveyed warm regards of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il to the general secretary. The general secretary expressed deep thanks for this and asked the head of the delegation to forward his cordial regards to respected His Excellency Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and to respected His Excellency Secretary Kim Chong-il. A conversation took place in a comradely and friendly atmosphere. The general secretary arranged a breakfast for the head of the delegation.

To Convey Kaifu Gift to Kim Il-song

SK2602112891 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1034 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—Comrade Kim Il- song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], was presented with a gift by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). The gift was conveyed here today to Kim Yong-sun who is heading a WPK delegation on a visit to Japan by Hajime Ishii, acting president of the Foreign Affairs Research Council of the LDP and member of the House of Representatives.

Meets USDP Officials

SK2602114591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1029 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA Correspondent)—Head of the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Kim Yong- sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, vice- chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, today met with Satsuki Eda, leader of the United Social Democratic Party (USDP) of Japan and member of the House of Representatives, in Tokyo.

Present on our side were secretary of the WPK delegation Kim Yang-kon, vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK and vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Association of Korea, and some suite members.

Present on the opposite side were Naoto Kan, deputy secretary general of the USDP and member of the House of Representatives; Hideo Den, permanent adviser to the USDP and member of the House of Councillors; Kooki Ishii, director of the Secretariat of the USDP; and Shigeru Iwatyuki, director of the International Department of the USDP.

Satsuki Eda warmly welcomed the Japan visit of the WPK delegation and said the USDP would redouble its efforts to normalize diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK and help realise the reunification of Korea at an early date.

Kim Yong-sun expressed thanks to the USDP for expressing solidarity with the Korean people in the efforts for peace on the Korean Peninsula and stressed the need to expand and develop the friendly relations between the two parties.

The talk proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Meets Komei Party Leader

SK2602114991 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1054 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—Head of the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Kim Yong- sun secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, met with Koshiro Ishida, chairman of the Komei Party and member of the House of Representatives, in Tokyo today.

Present on our side were secretary of the WPK delegation Kim Yang-kon who is vice-director of a department of the C.C., the WPK and vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Association of Korea and some suite members.

Present on the opposite side were Hiroichi Sakai, vice-chairman of the Komei party and member of the House of Representatives, Kazuo Torii, vice-chairman of the Dietmen's League for the Promotion of Japan-Korea Friendship and member of the House of Representatives, and Tetsuzo Nakano, member of the House of Councillors.

Koshiro Ishida warmly welcomed the Japan visit of the WPK delegation.

He said he was happy that the two countries ushered in a new era with the publication of the joint declaration of the Liberal Democratic Party, the Japan Social-democratic Party and the Workers' Party of Korea last year. The Komei Party, too, repents of and is apologetic for the past unhappy relations with Korea, he said, expressing his resolution to make a positive contribution to shaping a new history between Japan and Korea.

He expressed the hope that the DPRK would undertake more positive activities for detente in Asia in the international arena, and stressed that the important role played by the DPRK in the international arena is, in itself, a great contribution to peace in Asia and the world.

He expressed the expectation that the WPK and the Komei Party would take the opportunity of exchanging views and, with this as an occasion, develop relations between the two parties.

Kim Yong-sun expressed thanks to the chairman of the Komei Party for the warm welcome to the WPK delegation and his kind words.

Noting that the DPRK-Japan relations are improving at a fast rate after the publication of the joint declaration of the three parties, he continued: Korea and Japan which are so near to each other have been far apart. This does not accord with the desire of the people and must be solved without fail.

Kim Yong-sun expressed the hope that the WPK and the Komei Party would develop bilateral relations from the position of mutual respect, and invited the chairman of the Komei Party to visit the DPRK.

The talk proceeded in a friendly atmosphere.

Signs Agreement With LDP

SK2602120691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text) Tokyo February 26 (KCNA correspondent)—An agreement on the development of exchange and cooperation between the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] of Japan was signed here today. Present at the signing ceremony on our side were head of the WPK delegation Kim Yong-sun who is secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, deputy head of the delegation Choe Mun-son and members of the delegation Won Tong-ku, Choe Hyon-tok, Yi Chol-sin, Nam Sun-hui and Kim Chon-hyong and suite members. Present on the opposite side were Liberal Democratic members of the House of Representatives Hajime Ishii who is acting chairman of the Foreign Affairs Research Council of the LDP, Kunio Hatoyama who is director of the international department of the LDP and Masayoshi Takemura.

The agreement reads: The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea visited Japan from February 20 to 27, 1991 upon the kind invitation of the Liberal Democratic Party. During the visit, the two parties briefed each other on their domestic and external activities, exchanged a wide range of views on a series of matters of mutual concern and reached a consensus of views on further developing exchanges. Considering that the development of exchange between the two parties is favorable to the development of the relations of good neighbourhood and friendship between the peoples of Korea and Japan and peace and security in Asia and the world, the WPK and the LDP agrees: 1. That the two parties shall promote understanding and cooperation through frequent contacts and visits. 2. That the two parties shall regularly inform each other of their domestic and external activities and important international issues. 3. That the two parties shall exchange party delegations in various forms and actively encourage exchanges between the two countries in industry, the economy, youth and children's affairs, culture and art, sports and other sectors. The above-mentioned points shall be carried into practice through practical consultations of departments concerned of the two parties.

Kim Yong-sun Grants Interview

SK2502155091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1520 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Tokyo February 25 (KCNA correspondent)—Head of the visiting delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] Kim Yong-sun, secretary of the C.C. [Central Committee], the WPK, vice-chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and deputy to the SPA, was interviewed by a reporter of NHK Satellite Radio No. 1 of Japan in Tokyo today.

Answering questions put by the reporter, he explained in detail the background of the favorable development of the DPRK-Japan relations in the recent period. He said:

This accords with the desire and aspiration of the Korean and Japanese peoples. During our stay here, we reached an agreement with the Liberal Democratic Party and the Japan Social-Democratic Party on the need to make positive efforts to normalize diplomatic relations between the DPRK and Japan as soon as possible.

The DPRK under the wise guidance of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is successfully building socialism of Korean style where the masses are the masters of society and the leader, the party and the masses are welded into a single-hearted unity, no matter how the surrounding situation may change.

Kim Yong-sun explained the policies of the WPK and the DPRK government for achieving peace and peaceful reunification of Korea. He said:

President Kim Il-song in his new year address reiterated the method of achieving reunification by means of confederation based on one state, one nation, two systems and two governments. This is the best and most realistic and reasonable method of reunifying the country easily with neither side conquering the other or being conquered by the other. The WPK and the DPRK Government put forward a series of proposals to put it into effect.

The head of the WPK delegation made clear the reason why the United States recently came out with the issue of nuclear inspection in the DPRK and, citing data, exposed the United States' moves to convert South Korea into its nuclear base and clarified the DPRK's principled position toward the issue of nuclear inspection.

Daily: South 'Working To Impede' DPRK-Japan Ties

SK2402092691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0844 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 24 (KCNA)—Kim Chong-pil, "co-chairman of South Korea's Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]," recently visited Japan and obtrusively told the prime minister and the foreign minister of Japan that South Korea was "watching" the talks for normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations and that Japan should promote the talks in keeping with the "progress of the inter-Korean dialogues."

This clearly shows how desperately the South Korean authorities are working to impede the smooth process of normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations and drive a wedge between the DPRK and Japan, says NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today.

The news analyst continues:

It is obtrusive for the South Korean rulers to poke their nose into the matter of DPRK-Japan relations.

This is a matter between two independent, sovereign states and should be solved in accordance with the desire of the peoples of the two countries, in favour of peace in Asia and the world and at the independent will of the two governments.

The way of its solution is clearly set out in the joint declaration issued by the Workers' Party of Korea, the Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] and the Social-Democratic Party of Japan (formerly Japan Socialist Party).

It is ridiculous indeed for No Tae-u, a colonial agent of the U.S. imperialists, to send such fellow as Kim Chong-pil to meddle in the affairs between independent, sovereign states.

By asking Japan to keep step with "the progress of the inter- Korean dialogues" in solving the matter of the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, the South Korean rulers seek to inveigle Japan in their anti-national criminal act of suspending the inter-Korean dialogues and seeking confrontation and division and, in the long run, block the improvement of the DPRK-Japan relations.

They had once attempted to mislead public opinion, saying that they were not opposed to any "ally" of theirs establishing relations with the North and would cooperate in it. But, when the improvement of DPRK-Japan relations has been put on the order of the day, the No Tae-u ruling group, quite upset, is putting a spoke in its wheel.

This is a disgustingly shameful act.

However hard the South Korean rulers may try to impede the normalization of DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations, they can never block the trend of history.

Reunification Group on 'Suppression' in South

SK2502221591 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1526 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Pyongyang February 25 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the North side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification (Pomminnyon) today made public a statement condemning the South Korean authorities' suppression of Rev. Hong Kun-su.

The statement said:

The South Korean fascist authorities January 24 arrested the permanent chairman of the South side's headquarters for the promotion of a pan-national rally, the policy room chief and other members of the preparatory committee, who had organized a meeting for inaugurating the preparatory committee of the South side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance and electing Rev. Mun Ik- hwan its chairman, by invoking the "National Security Law" and then arrested Rev. Hong Kun-su involved in it. This is, no doubt, a premeditated and deliberate anti-reunification splittist act to block the nation-wide movement for reunification.

The North side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance for National Reunification vehemently denounces the South Korean fascist clique's arrest of Rev. Hong Kun-su, considering it to be an unpardonable anti-national and anti-reunification crime for desperately frustrating the inauguration of the South side's headquarters of the Pan-Korean Alliance, destroying the South Korean patriotic forces for reunification and blocking the road of independent non-governmental dialogue between the North and the South.

The formation of the preparatory committee of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon by the pro-reunification and democratic figures of South Korea this time is an entirely justifiable act showing their will to discharge their duty in accelerating the cause of national reunification and a patriotic act worthy of praise by the entire fellow countrymen either in view of the national unity or of reunification.

Even if the Rev. Hong Kun-su attempted to make contact with the North and expressed sympathy with the reunification proposal of the North, it was a just deed which must be done by anyone who aspires after reunification and that can never be a crime.

In order to accelerate the reunification of the country, the people of all strata in the North and the South must freely contact and have dialogue with each other, dispel misunderstanding and distrust and seek together a common way of reunification of the nation.

The South Korean fascist clique is trying to keep the division indefinitedly with their old fascist dictatorship and confrontation policy, ignoring the unshakable will of the nation to realize the independent and peaceful reunification of the country in a few years to come. But, it is a foolish dream.

The South Korean rulers must abolish at once such anti-reunification evil laws as the "National Security Law", immediately stop the suppression of the democratic forces for reunification and release without delay coed Yim Su-kyong, the "flower of reunification", Rev. Hong Kun-su, the members of the preparatory committee of the South side's headquarters of Pomminnyon and pro- reunification patriotic figures including the visitors to the North who were illegally arrested.

South Korea

Government Plans for Mideast Reconstruction

SK2602010591 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 26 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister No Chae-pong told ministries yesterday to work out plans for active participation in reconstruction of the Middle East and adaptation to the new order in the region after the Gulf war.

"Based on the report of the interministerial survey team now in action there, the ministries should analyze what impact the end of the Gulf war will have on the domestic economy and diplomacy, and work out plans to take part in postwar rehabilitation and to increase exports," No said, presiding over a cabinet meeting on the ground battle in the Gulf.

He said that in mapping out plans to take part in postwar rehabilitation projects the ministries should take into consideration Korea's shortage of materials and workers, created by the government's efforts to build 2 million houses for those who are not homeowners.

Saying Iraq might yet use chemical weapons, the prime minister said endeavors should be made to protect Koreans in the region, a spokesman said.

He said the Korean military medical team and transports should carry out their duties successfully through close cooperation with the allied command.

Five Korean military transport planes have joined the allied forces.

During the meeting, Construction Minister Yi Chin-sol said Korean companies will be encouraged to actively participate in postwar reconstruction works in the Gulf as prime contractors or jointly with American and British companies which have done business with Korean partners in that region.

Korean business giants like Hyundai, Dong-Ah and Daelim have been engaged in extensive construction works in the Mideast.

Trade and Industry Minister Yi Pong-so said the government intends to assist exporters in preparation of a possible rush of letters of credit from Mideast countries and the European Community.

North, South Agree on Soccer Training Dates

SK2602064091 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0500 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] In the second round of the working committees held to discuss the formation of a single North-South team to compete in the world junior soccer championship, the South and the North agreed on dates for player-selection matches and training, including an agreement on holding one round of player-selection games in Seoul and Pyongyang next May.

In the second working committee meeting held this morning at Tongilgak in the North side's area of Panmunjom, the North and South discussed issues that they had left unresolved at the first round of talks and agreed on holding the first player-selection game in Seoul on 4 May and the second in Pyongyang on 8 May.

No Warns Against Emotional Handling of Suso Case

SK2402005091 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 24 Feb 91 p 2

[Dispatch by staff reporter Pak Mu-chong]

[Text] Taejon—President No Tae-u said yesterday that the "Suso" scandal should not be dealt with "emotionally" such as in the form of a kangaroo court.

The bribery scandal, which has shaken the entire nation, much be handled according to the law, the President stressed.

"I understand that some people are not satisfied with the way the government's handling the case, but law-enforcement authorities will resolve it according to relevant laws," No said during his inspection of the Chungchong-namdo provincial government.

"The government will disclose the true picture of the scandal as it is," the President promised again. Last Tuesday No apologized for the scandal and promised that the true picture of it will be revealed.

After receiving a briefing from Gov. Han Chong-su on the provincial government's major policies for 1991, President No said that all public post holders are required to take the lead in restoring the public's trust in government.

"For this, all public servants must regain their sense of ethics and have a correct understanding of what the people want and of the current situation the nation is faced with," he said.

He further said that the upcoming local elections must be the clearest-ever in the nation's history, so that they can further the nation's democratic progress.

Crowds Demonstrate Against Housing Investigation

SK2302124091 Seoul YONHAP in English 1209 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 23 (OANA-YONHAP)—Hundreds of citizens braved sub-zero weather Saturday demanding the investigation into Suso district housing scandal be reopened.

More than 500 dissidents and students gathered at Pagoda Park in downtown Seoul from 3 P.M. carrying banners and placards denouncing the prosecution for attempted cover-up of the scandal.

Riot police were dispatched in hundreds to the area to prevent firebomb throwings, but no clashes were reported.

Another nearly 200 people massed at Myongdong Cathedral in the afternoon, and sporadic demonstrations were reported in other major cities.

The Pagoda Park rally, organized by Kyongsilyon or Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice, comes in the wake of widening suspicion that government, ruling and opposition officials were all involved in a multimillion dollar housing project scandal.

Five lawmakers, a former presidential secretary and a business group chairman have already been arrested for giving and accepting bribes while twisting rules to get the project approved.

"The scandal is but a tip of an iceberg covering rampant real estate speculation and close alliance between the government and conglomerates," the coalition statement said.

"Cabinet reshuffle is far from sufficient," the statement read, "it only goes to show the government is absolutely undedicated to a revolutionary improvement."

"Reopen investigation," "stop trying a cover-up," protesters chanted, waving placards with same demands.

A smaller protest continued at Myongdong cathedral, calling on the people to form a civilian investigation committee on the scandal.

University students in Kwanju occupied a downtown street, blaming President No Tae-u as the chief criminal behind the Suso scandal.

Hundreds of workers and students demanded immediate and stern punishment of all involved in the scam as they rallied at Inha University Auditorium. Firebombs were thrown at riot police trying to disperse them.

Signs are that protests are likely to gain wide support in the days ahead. Kim Hong-su, the newly-elected chairman of the Korean Bar Association, said the lawyers' group will form a board to ensure fair investigation by the prosecution.

A statement released after a general meeting said the Sixth Republic "turned away from its true responsibilities and bred corruption."

"The Suso scandal is one aspect of such corruption," the statement said.

Demonstrations on No's Inauguration Anniversary

SK2602023191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0157 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 26 (YONHAP)—The third anniversary of South Korean President No Tae-u's inauguration was tarnished by sporadic student demonstrations Monday.

Some 3,000 activist students in Seoul held anti-government rallies on campuses and took to the street chanting "No must go" and demanding that the president "take full responsibility for the Suso scandal."

About 2,000 students belonging to Sochongnyon [Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils], a radical student group of various universities, gathered Monday night at Korea University, where they denounced the across-the-board corruption of politicians, businessmen and civil servants, and called for a complete reinvestigation of the Suso scandal.

The ralliers, who were there for about two hours before dispersing voluntarily, maintained that the government was deeply involved in the Suso housing scandal and such corruption was endemic.

One speaker accused the United States of initiating the Gulf war as students burnt an American flag.

"Nothing shows more clearly the imperialistic nature of America than the on-going Gulf war," he said.

Aware of the public's negative attitude toward violence, the students were restrained from throwing firebombs or rocks and instead distributed leaflets and put anti-government posters on walls and telephone booths.

About 7,500 riot policemen were mobilized near various campuses to disperse the demonstrators.

Marches To Protest Corruption To Begin 16 March

SK2502051891 Seoul YONHAP in English 0501 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 25 (YONHAP)—More than 100 dissident and union leaders announced Monday that marches to protest government corruption would be held simultaneously in Seoul and other major cities next month.

"We urge all people from all sectors to join an emergency task group dedicated to eradicating corruption in the present regime and form a unified front," they said in a statement issued in a news conference.

The 108 people represented 16 dissident groups and 13 unions and included well-known activists such as the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, convicted of visiting North Korea without government permission.

To show nationwide opposition to the government, they said, peaceful protest marches in Seoul and all other major cities would begin at 4 p.m. March 16.

There have already been several rallies accusing government officials of covering up massive irregularities in a multimillion dollar housing project.

Five lawmakers, a former presidential secretary and a business group chairman were arrested for giving or taking bribes, and a number of ruling and opposition politicians are suspected of deep implication.

Hundreds of dissidents and students took to the streets Saturday demanding a new investigation of the Suso housing scandal, and the Korean Bar Association said it was forming a committee to urge a full and fair investigation by the prosecution.

The nation is reeling from rampant anti-democratic actions ranging from government suppression of unification movements to the housing scandal, the dissidents said in the statement.

"Without an official explanation of the scandal, we will boycott the upcoming local elections and all other planned political events," they said.

Burma

Thai Supreme Commander Calls on Saw Maung

BK2202142591 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] A delegation from the Royal Thai Armed Forces led by Supreme Commander General Sunthon Khongsomphong called on Senior General Saw Maung, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] at 1035 today at the Dagon House of the Ministry of Defense.

Present at the meeting with SLORC Chairman Senior General Saw Maung were General Than Shwe, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services and commander in chief of the Army; Rear Admiral Maung Maung Khin, commander in chief of the Navy; Lieutenant General Tin Tun, commander in chief of the Air Force; Lieutenant General Sein Aung, chief of No. 1 Special Operations Bureau; Lieutenant General Chit Swe, chief of No. 2 Special Operations Bureau; Major General Khin Nyunt, director of the Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Major General Tin U, chief of staff, Army; Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command; Police Director General San Thein of the People's Police Force; Colonel Ba Hein, military attache at the Myanmar [Burmese] Embassy in Thailand; and U Ohn Gyaw, director general of the Political Affairs Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Present at the meeting with General Sunthon Khongsomphong at the meeting were General Somphon Kamongran, assistant commander of the Royal Thai Navy; General Wimon Wongwanit, assistant commander of the Royal Thai Army; General Prachum Chomchai, assistant commander of the Royal Thai Air Force; senior officials from the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the Police Force; Mr Suraphong Posayanon, Thai ambassador to Myanmar; and military attaches.

More on Pipeline Protection Request, Other Issues

BK2302013391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 23 Feb 91 p 2

[Text] Thailand has asked the Rangoon military regime to help protect a gas pipeline it is planning to build to bring Burmese natural gas to feed power generators in Kanchanaburi Province.

Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong said he had asked for Burmese protection of the planned pipeline during his talks with Burmese military strongman Saw Maung yesterday.

Gen Sunthon, accompanied by senior armed forces commanders, paid a one-day visit to Burma yesterday at the invitation of Gen Saw Maung.

The Supreme Commander said the 500-km pipeline would be laid from the Gulf of Martaban in Burma to Three Pagoda Pass on the Thai-Burmese border.

The Petroleum Authority of Thailand's Exploration and Production (PTTEP) department is negotiating with Rangoon to invest in offshore facilities to explore and produce natural gas in the Gulf of Martaban to feed power generators in Kanchanaburi.

PTTEP president Thongchat Hongladarom, who accompanied Gen Sunthon on the trip, said it was expected the gas field in the Gulf of Martaban could yield 250-500 million cubic feet of natural gas a day.

The PTTEP was scheduled to conduct another round of negotiatiions on the investment plan with Rangoon next month, he said.

Gen Sunthon said Gen Saw Maung during the meeting yesterday urged that Thai authorities take legal action against Burmese monks who engaged in political activities in Thailand.

Gen Sunthon said he was told by Gen Saw Maung that some of these monks had been disrobed and had escaped into Thailand with the aim of engaging in political activities to try to overthrow the Rangoon government.

Some of the monks were recognised from newspaper photographs taken during rallies in Bangkok.

Gen Saw Maung expressed his satisfaction with the warm relations between Thailand and Burma and urged that relations be further fostered.

He also asked Thailand to understand the Burmese political situation and not to join Western nations in denouncing the Burmese military's handling of its internal politics.

Burma was a country in its own right and environment and the military junta reserved the right to handle its internal problems its own way, Gen Sunthon quoted Gen Saw Maung as saying.

Gen Saw Maung also said that an over-abundance of political parties and communist insurgents hampered the ruling military council's efforts to draw up a new constitution.

Gen Sunthon said Burmese generals feared too many political parties would upset a constitution-drafting process laid down by the army.

"We must reduce the number of political parties from more than 220 and have harmony between them before we can allow them to draft a new constitution," he quoted Gen Saw Maung as saying.

The visit yesterday was the first trip by top Thai commanders since a change in leadership in the army and foreign ministry in Thailand.

Army sources said Gen Sunthon would follow tougher Thai pronouncements on Burma by pressing the council to relax its repression of dissent.

Interview With Exiled NCGUB Foreign Minister

BK2402145791 London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1400 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Dear listeners, U Peter Limbin, foreign minister of the exiled NCGUB [National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma], is a member of the delegation of opposition officials who have come to meet with the Human Rights Commission in Geneva. The commission will hear a secret report prepared by the special UN human rights envoy, Professor Ogata, which will be submitted on Tuesday [26 February].

BBC correspondent Chris Powell asked the following questions to U Peter Limbin.

[Begin Powell recording in English] Let me ask you first of all why have you come all this way to Geneva? [end recording]

[Unidentified Burmese announcer] The first question posed by BBC correspondent Chris Powell was why U Peter Limbin had come to Geneva. U Peter Limbin says:

[Begin Limbin recording] I have come here to the United Nations first as the representative of the Burmese people and second as the foreign minister and first representative of the NCGUB. The reason for my visit is to make the world public and the Burmese people understand that our government is striving to bring about a transfer of power through very peaceful means. Since the United Nations and the international human rights organizations are working strenuously on behalf of nations and peoples who have lost their rights, we have come here with high hopes to count on them. [end recording]

[Announcer] When asked what was said in the meetings with the envoys of the commission, he says:

[Begin Limbin recording] In my meetings with the envoys and the nongovernment organizations, I explained to them that our people want to gain power without any blood being shed and through very peaceful means. [end recording]

[Announcer] When asked what he, as an elected representative of the people, feels about the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] not handing over power yet, U Peter Limbin says:

[Begin Limbin recording] Personally, I feel sad. But, what is important is not whether they give up the power. I was elected by the people and our government was elected by the people. We as elected representatives and the nationalities have already achieved unity among ourselves. Since this is the case, I believe that we already have the power. The power we have constitutes the people's power and not the power that belongs to a small clique of people. [end recording]

[Announcer] Correspondent Chris Powell recalled U Peter Limbin's earlier statement that power should be handed over through peaceful means, and asked whether violence or bloodshed was avoidable ultimately if the SLORC does not hand over the power and continues to persecute and oppress the opposition.

[Begin Limbin recording] I consider those in the present military government as our brothers. With the assistance and intervention from the human rights organizations, the governments concerned, and the nongovernment organizations, I believe the transfer of power will come about peacefully. I prefer not to fight with brothers. [end recording]

[Announcer] When asked if those whom he had met had taken interest in what he had said, U Peter Limbin says:

[Begin Limbin recording] Yes. When I explained about the feelings of our people, many of the ambassadors and the nongovernment organizations listened very carefully and came to clearly understand how our people feel and what our government is doing. We were quite successful in doing that. [end recording]

[Announcer] When asked what is likely to happen in the future, and what is the next step, U Peter Limbin says:

[Begin Limbin recording] What we are trying to do is to avoid bloodshed in our country and to regain the power of the people by establishing mutual understanding. This is what we hope to do. [end recording]

[Announcer] As a final question, Chris Powell asked: Do you think that the United Nations will again investigate human rights violations in Burma and make the findings public?

[Begin Limbin recording] I believe so, although it will depend on the present military regime. If it really understands the people, the true good will of the people's representatives, and truly wants peace in the country, I believe that the regime will accept the transfer of power. I think it should accept this, because then we will be able to fulfill the needs of the people without shedding the blood of either side. [end recording]

Commission Cancels Election of Representative

BK2202151091 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Announcement No. 914 of the Commission for Holding Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanmar (Burma) dated 22 February 1991]

[Text] Subject: Announcement on cancellation of status of U Zale Tang as elected People's Assembly representative for infringing upon the stipulations of Sub-section D, Section 11 [being declared by the Election Tribunal to be under any allegiance to a foreign power or a subject or citizen or entitled to the rights and privileges of a subject or citizen of foreign power] of the Elections Law.

1. U Zale Tang was elected as People's Assembly representative from Falam Township Constituency Two in the multiparty democratic general elections held on 27 May 1990.

2. A case was filed against U Zale Tang saying he violated Section 20 of the Printers and Publishers Registration Act, which was registered as case No. 237/90 of Kale Township Court. While proceedings were being carried out he absconded to Aijal in the Indian State of Mizoram and the court concerned, in their judgment, has proclaimed him to be an absconder.

3. U Zale Tang, by living in a foreign country, is under the allegiance of a foreign power.

4. As he is found to be in violation of Section 11-D of the People's Assembly Election Law, the commission has announced the cancellation of his election as People's Assembly representative.

By the authority vested in me:

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Deputy Foreign Minister on Effects of Gulf War

BK2502104491 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0947 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 25 (BERNAMA)—Malaysia regrets that a good opportunity to resolve the Gulf war without more bloodshed has been allowed to pass with the launching of the ground offensive by the allied forces, Deputy Foreign Minister Dr. Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan told the Senate Monday.

Replying to Senator Law Jack Yoon, he said Malaysia along with neutral countries would nevertheless continue with efforts to achieve peace.

Malaysia though no longer a member of the United Nations Security Council was always playing an active role to end the Gulf war, he added.

Dr. Abdullah said Malaysia's diplomatic relations with Iraq and Kuwait were not affected as Malaysia was not involved in the military activities going on there.

Replying to Senator Gen. (rtd) [Retired General] Ghazali Seth, he said the economic effects of the Gulf war on Malaysia would be felt if the war was prolonged as this would then affect the world economy.

Official Urges Japan To Join Economic Grouping

OW2502114591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0848 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb. 25 KYODO—A senior Malaysian finance official Monday urged Japan to stop sitting on the fence and join the proposed East Asia Economic Grouping aimed at strengthening mutual trade and economic cooperation.

"So far, the response toward this effort has been encouraging. Japan is, of course, hedging," said Deputy Finance Minister Abdul Ghani Othman.

"We strongly urge Japan to join this grouping and to continue their investment within this region to further strengthen the economic links that already exist," he said at a seminar on the European Community and the world economy organized by the University of Malaya and the Goethe Institute.

When Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed first mooted the idea in December last year of an economic grouping of China, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) headed by Japan to ward off possible protectionist trends in global trade. Tokyo promptly rejected it.

Japan said it will not support anything which may emerge as a trade bloc.

Undeterred, Mahathir said he will get ASEAN support before approaching Japan again. Mahathir's envoy, International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz, went on a tour of ASEAN countries recently and reported sound support for the proposal. Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong openly announced his approval of the idea and pledged to support and promote it.

Outside of ASEAN, Mahathir has already received a favorable response from Chinese Premier Li Peng, who visited Malaysia in early January. Rafidah said the proposal is likely to be discussed and endorsed at the ASEAN summit scheduled for the end of the year. ASEAN groups Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Brunei, and the Philippines.

Meanwhile, Mahathir has accused the United States of attempting to scuttle the emergence of the East Asia grouping by campaigning quietly against it among some of the countries which are likely members.

Abdul Ghani sought to reassure Japan by saying the East Asia Grouping is not a trade bloc. "The East Asia Economic Grouping is not an effort to create another bloc but is meant to strengthen our collective voice," he said.

"It is meant to strengthen the region's collective voice as well as to harness its resources and potential for greater economic and trade cooperation for the benefit of our people," he said.

ASEAN Officials To Discuss Economic Grouping

BK2602033091 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0306 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Feb 25 (OANA-BERNEMA)—ASEAN senior officials will meet early next month to discuss in depth the proposal to set up an East Asian economic grouping (EAEG).

Parliamentary Secretary to the Malaysian Ministry of International Trade and Industry, K.S. Nijhar, told Senate Monday that the outcome of their meeting would be discussed at the ASEAN economic ministers meeting in October and at the ASEAN summit in Singapore at the end of the year.

He also said Malaysia would invite East Asian countries to the meeting here to discuss common issues related to the Uruguay round in April.

This was aimed at adopting a common stand at the Uruguay round in efforts to further advance the proposal to set up EAEG. The EAEG was aimed at enhancing economic and trade ties so that the region would emerge as a strong exporter, a major import market, and an attractive investment area, Nijhar said.

He said the activities of the grouping would neither be in conflict with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) nor ignore the interests of third countries such as the United States and European Community nations.

He also announced that International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz would visit Tokyo and Seoul before the middle of this year to discuss the proposed EAEG.

He said the EC, China, South Korea, and Taiwan had supported the proposal while Japan had not rejected it.

The EAEG would not turn this into a close trading region but would rather contribute to world trade, he added.

Cambodia

Official Says Government 'Studying' Thai Coup

BK2502171291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1633 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 25 (AFP)—The Vietnam-backed Cambodian Government is studying with deep interest the situation in Thailand, scene of a weekend coup, a Foreign Ministry official said here.

But he added that the matter was an internal one for Thailand.

Another official speculated that China, main backer of the Khmer Rouge—the military backbone of the tripartite Cambodian resistance—may have played a part in Saturday's coup that ousted Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

His government was widely viewed as leaning towards the Phnom Penh government, although Bangkok's armed forces have given support to the Khmer Rouge and other anti-Phnom Penh guerrillas.

Thai army chief and coup leader General Suchinda Khraprayun told a news conference Sunday that peace in Cambodia would be impossible without the Khmer Rouge's participation.

Phnom Penh has demanded guarantees against a return to power of the communist Khmer Rouge whose 1975 to 1979 rule here left hundreds of thousands of people dead.

An official, who requested anonymity, said the "Chatchai government was not so explicit about the Khmer Rouge role."

"I wonder if there was any Chinese influence in the change," he said, adding that Mr. Chatchai's proposals for reconstructing Indochina would not have pleased China.

He added that Phnom Penh would have to see who emerged as Thailand's leader from the coup to assess the situation more fully.

Elections To Be Held in 1992 If No Peace

BK2502023491 Moscow in Cambodian to Cambodia 1100 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] The Cambodian Government has decided to hold an election of the National Assembly if the peaceful solution fails. This statement was made yesterday, Saturday, by Comrade Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia. However, he stressed that in any case the Cambodian Government still desires to continue negotiation with the opposition groups on the basis of the UN plan to normalize the situation in Cambodia. This plan, if accepted by all sides, will pave the way for an election inside the country under the UN auspices.

Phnom Penh wants a firm guarantee that the Pol Pot clique—accused of committing genocidal crimes in Cambodia in the 1970's—will not be allowed to return to power.

Hor Namhong Receives Japanese Diplomat Imagawa

BK2602061391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Comrade Hor Namhong, foreign minister of the State of Cambodia, received in Phnom Penh on 22 February a delegation of the Japanese Foreign Ministry led by Mr. Imagawa, official attached to the Japanese Embassy in Bangkok.

The comrade Cambodian foreign minister expressed a warm welcome to the guest and informed him of the outcome of the recent meeting to seek a solution for the Cambodian problem which is very important for the reconstruction of Cambodia.

Comrade Hor Namhong reiterated the State of Cambodia's goodwill stance regarding the Cambodian solution in which respect must be given to Cambodia's sovereignty, the Cambodian people's right to self-determination, and the Supreme National Council's [SNC] right to decide Cambodia's internal affairs, adding that this SNC should be resumed.

Concerning the genocide question, the comrade minister stressed that everyone in the world knows well that the Pol Pot clique implemented a genocidal policy in Cambodia. Therefore, all agreements must provide concrete measures for preventing the genocidal regime from returning to Cambodia, particularly in view of the fact that Cambodia signed the international convention on the prevention and punishment of genocidal crimes. Another remarkable point is that the Pol Pot clique has threatened to stage a return. Militarily, it has intensified large-scale offensives using heavy weapons and tanks. Politically, it has stood

behind Sihanouk in order to participate in the elections for the ultimate goal of seizing power.

In his reply, Mr. Imagawa acclaimed the progress made by the Cambodian people in their national reconstruction and expressed profound thanks for all the important information given him.

The Cambodian foreign minister and Mr. Imagawa then exchanged views on a number of concrete goals and forms for expanding the bilateral relations between the peoples of Cambodia and Japan.

During his 11-day stay in the State of Cambodia, Mr. Imagawa was received by Comrade Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly and of the National Council of the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense; Comrade General Sin Song, interior minister; and other comrade ministers and deputy ministers of various other institutions.

Mr. Imagawa also went on a fact-finding tour to Kompong Cham, Kompong Speu, Takeo, Koh Kong, and Svay Rieng Provinces.

Heng Samrin Greets Mongolian Party 20th Congress

BK2602060791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] On the occasion of the 20th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] Central Committee, Comrade Heng Samrin, secretary general of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP] Central Committee, has sent a greetings message to MPRP Central Committee. The message noted:

On behalf of the KPRP and all Cambodian people and in my own name, we would like to extend warmest and most sincere congratulations to the MPRP's 20th congress and to members of the congress which opened on 25 February 1991.

Through the difficult and resolute struggle waged by the MPRP in the past 70 years, we believe that this congress is an important turning point for the party in setting its lines toward achieving national democracy on the basis of scientific socialism.

We are firmly convinced that the bonds of friendship, solidarity, and all-round cooperation between the parties, governments, and peoples of Cambodia and Mongolia will continue to develop.

We hope that the fraternal Monglian people will successfully implement the resolutions of this party congress.

We wish the 20th congress and all members of the MPRP success and brilliant results in the cause of national progress and prosperity.

Chea Sim Speaks at CFTU Committee Meeting

BK2402082791 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] On the afternoon of 22 February at the Cambodian Federation of Trade Unions [CFTU] office, the sixth session of the second CFTU committee was successfully concluded after two days of debate.

During the session, the participants paid attention to the report summing up outcomes and achievements scored by various workers and employees as well as the activities carried out by the CFTU in 1990. They discussed and worked out the tasks to be implemented by the CFTU in 1991 as well. Moreover, the audience listened to the report on experiences in setting up local production and handicraft trade unions in the private sector in Phnom Penh City and to advice on establishing the private sector's production and handicraft trade unions nationwide.

The session was honored by the presence of Comrade Chea Sim, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of both the National Assembly and Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense. The comrade praised the great achievements gained by our fraternal workers and employees all over the country in 1990. He urged the participants to continue their spirit of struggle and to heighten their patriotism and high sense of responsibility for the destiny of the nation by motivating our workers and employees to more actively involve themselves in the cause of national defense and construction as well as in self-administering their livelihood.

Taking the floor to close the meeting, Comrade Men Sam-an, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and chairwoman of the CFTU, exhorted the participants to disseminate, after returning to their respective localities, the outcome and objective of the meeting with a view toward stimulating the movement of workers and employees to becoming more vigorous, contributing to defending with effectiveness the nation's social gains, and to preventing the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, no ifs, ands, or buts about it.

More Arms Caches Uncovered in Kompong Thom

BK2302121391 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Summary] After defeating the enemies in Stoung District of Kompong Thom Province, the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF] have continued their search for the enemy arms caches in Kampoes, Sangvat, Nipich, and Krayea in the same district. In Kampoes, the CPAF has discovered 94 assorted guns—58 SKS's, 28 AK's, one M-18 rifle, and two M-30 rifles.

On 12 February at the eastern part of Sangvat, an enemy arms and ammunition cache was uncovered. It consisted of 114 B-42 rockets, 996 B-40.5 rockets, 831 AT rounds, 275 packs of TNT explosive, 12,800 rounds for AK rifles, and 270 various mines. And between 1 and 12 February, 106 misled persons returned in Stoung District.

SRV Troops Reported Hiding in Thalabarivat

BK2302033491 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Excerpt] On 11 February our people and resistance forces in Thalabarivat District of Stung Treng Province reported that 3,000 troops of the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors' 315th Division, in hiding at O Pong Moan, continued to fight our Cambodian national resistance [CNR] forces in Preah Vihear Province. Those enemy soldiers, who wear Vietnamese army uniforms when they are in their positions and puppet army uniforms when they fight, have successively been attacked and destroyed by our CNR forces. [passage omitted]

Resistance Thwarts Attempt on Varin District

BK2302033091 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] On 15-16 February the race-exterminating Vietnamese enemy aggressors and their lackey puppets marshalled four regiments from Samraong District, Siem Reap Province—consisting of soldiers from Svay Rieng, Kompong Cham, and Siem Reap Provinces—in a bid to retake the district of Varin in the same province from us. However, they were ambushed and forced to retreat behind their lines. We killed 16 and wounded 25 enemy soldiers and destroyed 25 AK assault rifles, one B-40 rocket launcher, and some war materiel.

Laos

Nouhak Phoumsavan Receives New PLO Envoy

BK2602102291 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Nouhak Phoumsavan, chairman of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call by Salim 'Umar Shaleh, new ambassador of the state of Palestine to Laos, after the latter presented his credentials to the acting president of the LPDR on 18 January.

During the call, the SPA chairman chatted with the guest on the state of Lao-Palestinian relations both in the past as well as at present. He wished the PLO ambassador success in carrying out his diplomatic mission in Laos.

Party Central Committee Greets MPRP Congress

BK2602032091 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] On 25 February, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee sent greetings to the 20th congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP]. The message reads as follows:

On the convention of the 20th congress of the MPRP, the LPRP Central Committee, party members, working class, and laboring people of Laos would like to convey warm salutations and greetings to comrade delegates of the congress, and through the congress, to members of the MPRP and all Mongolian laboring people.

The 20th MPRP congress is a significant event in the political life of the Mongolian party and people. It convenes at a time when the international and domestic situations in your country have been positively changed. We are convinced that with the intelligence and rich experiences of comrade delegates and with the fine traditions of the MPRP, it is certain that you comrades will be able to settle all difficult problems in conformity with the practical conditions of the Mongolian People's Republic for the progress and prosperity of the Mongolian people.

We wish the 20th congress of the MPRP glorious success.

Somlat Chanthamat on Cambodian, SRV Visits

BK2602112591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] On 22 February, the delegation of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC], led by Somlat Chathamat, secretary of the LPRP CC and head of the LPRP CC Propaganda and Training Board, left for Cambodia for a working visit at the invitation of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party Central Commitee [KPRP CC].

During their stay in Cambodia, Somlat Chanthamat and his entourage will hold a consultative and working meeting with Dit Munti, chairman of the KPRP CC Propaganda and Training Board, so as to review together the outcome of the cooperation on propaganda and training frame between the two parties and states in the past year. They will also discuss the cooperation plan for propaganda and training work in the years to come. The Lao delegation will also pay visits to many popular foundations, economic construction enterprises, and a number of cultural sites in Phnom Penh and will pay courtesy calls on some important Cambodian party and state leaders.

After ending their working visit to Cambodia, Somlat Chanthamat and his party will proceed to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi to pay a working visit to the SRV at the invitation of the Propaganda and Training Board of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee.

Seeing the delegation off at the airport were Sopha Khotphouthon and Bouaban Volakhoun, deputy heads of the LPRP CC Propaganda and Training Board, and a number of cadres concerned.

Long Kem and Nguyen Xuan, respectively ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the State of Cambodia and the SRV to Laos, were also on hand at the airport to bid farewell to the delegation.

Talks Held With Visiting Vietnam Peace Group

BK2602111591 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 1200 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] On the morning of 22 February, a meeting was officially held in Vientiane between the Lao and Vietnamese peace organizations. The Lao side was led by

Singkapo Sikhotchounnamali, chairman of the Lao Committee for Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship With Other Countries, and the Vietnamese side by Nong Duc Manh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, vice chairman of the Vietnam Union of Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organizations, and chairman of the Vietnam-Laos Friendship Association. High-ranking cadres of the two sides also attended the meeting in full force.

At the meeting, the two sides informed each other of their past positions and activities and exchanged views on the international and regional situations. They also assessed the trend of the current peace movements in the world and explored ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the future so as to seek conditions to continually bolster the solidarity between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

The Vietnamese peace delegation arrived in Vientiane on 21 February to pay a one-week friendship visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic at the invitation of the Lao peace organization.

Philippines

Wife of USAF Investigator Killed Near Clark

HK2602083091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0816 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Angeles, Philippines, Feb 26 (AFP)—The wife of a U.S. Air Force [USAF] investigator was found stabbed dead Tuesday in this city just off Clark Air Base, police said.

Jolie Snodgrass, wife of U.S. Office of Special Investigation agent Joseph Snodgrass, was found dead with multiple stab wounds in her red Chevrolet pickup truck by a Filipino jogger, Angeles police superintendent Julius Yarcia said.

He refused to state possible suspects or motives behind the killing of the woman, who was in her mid-thirties.

Clark spokeswoman Captain Kim Urie confirmed the incident but would not give details.

Clark officials had already imposed a nighttime curfew on off- base travel of base personnel and dependents for fear of attacks by pro-Iraqi terrorists or communist guerrillas who have killed seven U.S. personnel since 1987.

No additional off-base travel restrictions were imposed on U.S. service personnel after the killing.

Aquino Reiterates Support for UN Forces in Gulf

HK2502123191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0600 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The Philippine Government will continue to support the UN forces' action in the Gulf for the liberation of invaded Kuwait. President Aquino announced this today. Tanny Rodriguez reports:

[Begin recording] The president said the Philippines continues to maintain friendly relations with Iraq as it continues to support the UN measures and resolutions on the Gulf. Despite the launching of a ground war, the president said the Philippines is confident and hopeful that the war will be short. The president is also hopeful that all the UN resolutions on the Gulf war will be complied with by those concerned. [end recording]

Acting Secretary Remarks on Thai Junta's Promise

HK2602032791 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 26 Feb 91 p 10

[Text] Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Manuel Yan yesterday told reporters that the Thai junta's announcement that "there will be elections in the near future to preserve democracy in that country is indeed welcome news."

Thai Army Gen. Sunthorn Kongsomphong, said to be a protege of ex- Defense Minister Chaowalit (sacked by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan), and one of the five leading officers who seized power through a bloodless coup Saturday, announced that ammendments to the Thai Constitution and the holding of general elections would occur in six months. This takeover, diplomatic observers told BUSINESS WORLD, is believed to be the outgrowth of a power struggle between Mr. Chaowalit and Prime Minister Chatchai (now under arrest).

Mr. Yan said he was "relieved" to learn that "the recent political events in Thailand were not attended by bloodshed and that the country's peace and order have largely been maintained."

The other day, Malacanang said the Thai coup was an "internal matter."

Military To Assume Air Defense Responsibility

HK2502065991 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 25 Feb 91 p 12

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] The Philippines will be assuming responsibility for its own air defense starting September 16, 1991, documents provided by sources close to the Philippine-American Cooperation Talks [PACT] show.

During previous rounds of PACT, the country's negotiators demanded a withdrawal of permanently based U.S. combat aircraft from Clark and the reversion of four smaller facilities. The status quo will be largely maintained in the case of Subic.

During the 4th PACT round, the U.S. agreed to a phased withdrawal from the vital Wallace radar and communications facility.

Joint-Use Pact

Under a joint-use arrangement, U.S. personnel will still be retained at Wallace for the purpose of maintaining radar and associated equipment but their functions will be

basically for military training. Their number will be reduced to the level required to fulfill this function.

According to a draft of the PAC Treaty, the Philippine Air Force "shall exercise operational control over the use of the radar and associated equipment or air defense," which will take "precedence over military training."

Ownership of the existing radar, and the maintenance costs, will however remain with the U.S.

Within two years from the expected ratification of PACT, the U.S. intends to replace the existing radar with new radar.

Once this system is operational, all U.S. military personnel are to be withdrawn from Wallace. but, continuing access will be granted for the "purpose of maintaining the radar and associated equipment."

Because the equipment will still be owned by the U.S. it will continue to "receive the radar products and benefits (intelligence)."

The U.S. will continue to enjoy access to the adjacent Voice of America transmitter (which is considered U.S. diplomatic property), "and this agreement will be made in an exchange of diplomatic notes."

The U.S. Air Force will continue to operate and maintain the Crow Valley—Camp O'Donnell range complex and own the training and communications equipment there.

By September 17, the Armed Forces of the Philippines will move into San Miguel and be responsible for its "overall control, administration and security."

Relocating U.S. personnel and dependents from the San Miguel naval Station to Subic is to be completed no later than the "end of 1994."

Until such time as all U.S. personnel shall have vacated housing in San Miguel, the U.S. will continue to maintain and operate the ancillary facilities (such as the school, power plant, swimming pool, golf course, etc) there.

Camp John Hay will be vacated by the Americans "no later the U.S. Ambassador will continue to reta in access to, use of the utilities and ownership of the diplomatic residence there. This will be specified under another exchange of diplomatic notes.

A senior foreign affairs official admitted that squatters, in anticipation of the U.S. pullout, had begun moving into the area. "They're mostly Igorots. They are claiming John Hay as ancestral lands," he said.

Senator Discloses Manglapus' Washington Agenda

HK2502152191 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 1100 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Today, Senator Alberto Romulo disclosed the four agenda items to be discussed by Secretary Manglapus and his Washington counterparts regarding the U.S. military bases in our country after September 1991.

According to Senator Romulo the four items are: First, the U.S. bases in Clark and Subic will remain for seven more years; second, the U.S. military airlift command will continue to serve and use the facilities of the Clark Air Base in Angeles City, including the transport of personnel and air cargo; third, Craw Valley will continue its operation for military personnel and aircraft not only of the United States but also of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and some Asian countries; and, fourth, the issue of compensation.

Honasan Writes to Military Academy Graduates

HK2602073791 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 23 Feb 91 p 9

["Open letter" by former Colonel Gregorio B. Honasan, published on the "Opinion" page in the "Voices" column]

[Text] When I graduated from the Academy 20 years ago, my father wrote me: "Son, two things will keep your head above water no matter what the situation is: Integrity and professional competence."

To the new graduates, let me add another two to my father's wisdom: Consistency and total commitment to duty are the things that separate the true professional soldier from the blind follower and fencesitter.

During your stay in the Academy, your superiors and those in the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chain of command have repeatedly bombarded you to uphold the Constitution and practice Democracy. And yet, they themselves have frequently violated the very same Constitution and often disregarded the principles of Democracy.

The Constitution embodies everything about our people: Their rights and freedom; their honor and dignity; their liability and responsibility; their dreams and aspirations; their sovereign will and well-being; and their security and integrity.

It is incumbent upon you to understand at this early stage of your career that, as vanguard of the Constitution and the protector of the people, part of your duty includes the removal of these people. Otherwise, you will become their instruments to perpetuate the status quo.

If those who are now enjoying the benefits of the status quo will tell you that election is the only democratic means for a peaceful change, please ask yourselves or any of them: when was the last time the country had a free, honest and peaceful election: How many innocent civilians have to die everytime we hold an election considering our traditional politicians' propensity for the use of guns, goons and money to get elected? Or do you want to undergo and suffer another 100 years of this vicious cycle?

When I am asked: Who gave us the right to intervene in the political affairs of our country? I give them a very simple answer: When the security and survival of the people we have sworn to protect and defend are at stake, it becomes not a matter of right, but a DUTY. Who gave Aguinaldo, Bonifacio, Del Pilar, Mabini and others the right to start

the Philippine Revolution which we all are merely continuing? The issues remain the same: Good government; our long prostituted national sovereignty; total political, economic and military dependence on foreign powers; absence of vision and clear national directions on the part of the government; unbridled graft and corruption in all levels of government. When will it come even just to manageable proportions?

Or maybe you want to ask why 70 percent of our population are condemned to a life of hopelessness because of incompetence, mismanagement, nepotism, favoritism and greed? Or perhaps you want to ask why we have remained the laggards in Southeast Asia, whose only claim to fame is in producing ice cream and beer while the others are competing with one another in the manufacture of computers, aircraft, ships and modern armaments?

Where were your "brave" superiors and so-called "professional" members of the chain of command when the young officers like you were painfully resolving the moral issues that confronted them before and during the EDSA [Epifanio Delos Santos Avenue] REVOLUTION? Were they not busy staying in the wings, playing it sfae and shamelessly wrangling for choice positions when it was all over?

And where was your Commander in chief, Corazon Cojuangco Aquino, when the events were unfolding on EDSA? She was busy hiding in a convent in Cebu City! So, how then can she speak for those soldiers and people power who risked their lives when she was not even there?

Your generation must answer these crucial questions now because failing to do so, would only cast away the noble and lofty ideals of those who risked their lives. Remember always that your are not Aquino's, Ramos's, Biazon's or anybody else's soldiers. You are soldiers of the Filipino people! And to them and the Almighty God, you owe your allegiance, loyalty, service, commitment and sacrifice.

You don't have to search long and deep for the right answers to be able to stay on in the Long Gray Line, a meaningful legacy men of honor had established before us. All you have to do is always remember our Cadet Prayer... "Give us that honest purpose of life which seeks fair deal with everyone and spurs all forms of hypocrisy that will enkindle our fighting faith, and smother all the seeds of cowardice and fear in our hearts; the loyalty to our principles that places all issues above personal considerations and shuns compromise with vice and injustice. Strengthen our hearts with fortitude that we may discipline our lives to trail the difficult paths rather than to stray on the easier ways..."

Whatever happens in the uncertain future, we welcome you with open hearts as brothers in arms.

Congratulations on your graduation!

Para sa Bansa [For the country]

[Signed] Col. Gregorio B. Honasan

[Dated] 18 February 1991

Thailand

King Appoints Sunthon To Lead Council

BK2602051091 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0411 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Royal command appointing the head of the National Peacekeeping Council—read by Major General Pricha Uthennasut, director of the Army Personnel Department]

[Text] Royal signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, rex

As it is apparent that the administration by the government with General Chatchai Chunhawan as prime minister has failed to gain the people's confidence and has also failed to maintain peace and order in the country, a group of military, police, and civilian personnel led by General Sunthon Khongsomphong has seized administrative power with Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong serving as head of the National Peacekeeping Council.

A royal command is therefore issued to appoint Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong as the head of the National Peacekeeping Council. From now on, the people are requested to remain calm and officials of all services to follow the orders of Gen. Sunthon Khongsomphong.

Announced on 24 February 1991

Sunthon Speaks After Receiving Royal Command

BK2602064791 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0416 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Speech by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council, at a royal command appointing him head of the council at the Army auditorium—live]

[Text] To every blood brother [phuan ruamtai]:

I am extremely grateful for this royal command appointing me head of the National Peacekeeping Council. It is a great honor for me as well as for the Armed Forces and all of my five blood brothers. The recent event would not have been successful if the intentions of any of the six of us had been anything but honest and aimed at the interests of peace and order in the country and the well being of the people. I assure you that I will persist with this intention and administer the country honestly and in compliance with the pledge of our blood brothers.

I wish to thank every one of my subordinates for their cooperation with myself and my five blood brothers; without you we could not have accomplished our task. Again, I thank all five of my blood brothers and every one of my subordinates.

More National Peacekeeping Council Announcements

25th Appoints Fiscal Adviser

BK2602012291 Bangkok NAEO NA in Thai 26 Feb 91 p 15

[Twenty-fifth Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council]

[Text] To enable the National Peacekeeping Council to administer the national affairs in an orderly manner, Bodi Chunnanon is therefore appointed as another economic and fiscal adviser to the advisory team.

29th Places Agencies Under Command

BK2602071391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 26 Feb 0610 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Twenty-ninth Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council—live or recorded]

[Text] To ensure the systematic and effective functioning of some independent government agencies under the direct authority of the prime minister, the following government agencies are therefore placed under the direct command of the head of the National Peacekeeping Council effective immediately.

They are:
1. The Royal Household Bureau;
2. The Office of His Majesty's Principal Private Secretary.

Announced on 26 February 1991

[Signed] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council

30th Delegates Power to Deputies

BK2602095391 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0900 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Thirtieth Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council—live or recorded]

[Text] Empowered by announcements Nos. 8 and 10 of the National Peacekeeping Council, the head of the National Peacekeeping Council issues an order delegating the following authority and duties:

1. The first deputy head of the National Peacekeeping Council and the head of the security branch becomes the official who exercises the authority and duties of the prime minister or the cabinet, whatever applies, in the following sectors of national administration:
   1.1 the Defense Ministry
   1.2 the Interior Ministry
   1.3 the Communications Ministry
   1.4 the Justice Ministry
   1.5 the Foreign Ministry

2. The second deputy head of the National Peacekeeping Council and the head of the socio-psychology and technology branch becomes the official who exercises the authority and duties of the prime minister or the cabinet, whatever applies, in the following sectors of national administration:
   2.1 the University Affairs Bureau
   2.2 the Education Ministry
   2.3 the Public Health Ministry
   2.4 the Science, Technology, and Energy Ministry

3. The third deputy head of the National Peacekeeping Council and the head of the economic branch becomes the official who exercises the authority and duties of the prime minister or the cabinet, whatever applies, in the following sectors of national administration:
   3.1 the Finance Ministry
   3.2 the Commerce Ministry
   3.3 the Industry Ministry
   3.4 the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry

4. The secretary general of the National Peacekeeping Council excercises the authority and duties of the prime minister or the cabinet, whatever applies, in the following sectors of the national administration:
   4.1 the Prime Minister's Office
   4.2 the National Audit Council
   4.3 other branches of the national administration not delegated to those above.

Announced on 26 February 1991

[Signed] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council

31st on Appointment of Officials

BK2602124591 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Thirty-first Announcement of the National Peacekeeping Council; signed by General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council—live or recorded]

[Text] In the interest of orderly and improved operation of various bureaucratic agencies, the head of the National Peacekeeping Council has issued an order appointing the following officials:

1. Major General Kamon Thappharangsi, deputy director of the National Intelligence Agency [NIA], to be attached to the Prime Minister's Office.

2. Maj. Gen. Ayuphun Kannasut, attached to Army Headquarters, to serve in the NIA.

3. Siphum Sukkhanet, permanent secretary of the Communications Ministry, to be attached to the Prime Minister' Office.

4. Mahidon Chantharangkun, deputy permanent secretary of the Communications Ministry, to become permanent secretary of the Communications Ministry.

5. Anan Anantakun, permanent secretary of the Interior Ministry, to be attached to the Prime Minister's Office.

6. Charoenchit na Songkhla, deputy permanent secretary of the Interior Ministry, to become permanent secretary of the Interior Ministry.

The Civil Service Commission, the Budget Bureau, and relevant agencies are to take urgent action with regard to the post and salary of the above officials. This is effectively immediately.

Announced on 26 February 1991

[Signed] General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council

Half of Coup Troops Withdrawn to Units

BK2602030791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb 91 p A4

[Text] About 50 per cent of troops deployed at communications stations and major government offices since the start of the coup on Saturday were withdrawn back to their units yesterday, a senior army officer said.

Army Assistant Secretary General Col Banchon Chawansin told a press conference at the headquarters of the National Peacekeeping Command [as published] [NPC] yesterday that Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun ordered the troop withdrawal to avoid causing panic among the people.

The troops, said Banchon, will remain on duty only at "important spots" to keep peace.

The director of the Mass Communications Organization of Thailand, Prasit Hitanan, said yesterday he had asked NPC Director Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to withdraw six tanks and troops that were stationed around the MCOT headquarters before the visit of US military officials to MCOT this week and added that the general accepted the request.

Sunthon Interviewed on Cabinet Formation

BK2602072691 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai GMT 26 Feb 91

[Interview with General Sunthon Khongsomphong, head of the National Peacekeeping Council, by unidentified correspondent; at the Army auditorium on 26 February—recorded]

[Text] [Sunthon] The constitution will be promulgated first. The process is that the draft constitution will be submitted to the king for his consideration. After the king's approval, it will be promulgated and used by the provisional government to administer the country. The procedure is after the promulgation of the constitution, the cabinet list will be submitted to the king for his royal appointment. Then we will appoint members of the National Legislative Assembly [sapha nitibanyat haengchat]. By then we will have both legislative and administrative power. We will not tamper with judicial power.

[Correspondent] When can you announce the provisional cabinet?

[Sunthon] Thorough consideration is necessary in forming the cabinet. It cannot be done haphazardly. We do not have much time and there is no time for mistakes. Therefore, we must move forward only so that people will see concrete achievements of the government as soon as possible.

[Question indistinct]

[Sunthon] Several people have been recommended. [Words indistinct] Several of them are already on the advisory team. As for who will be selected, there will be a pool to be selected from.

[Correspondent] How far along is the cabinet formation?

[Sunthon] About 70-80 percent.

[Correspondent] Has the draft of the interim constitution been completed?

[Sunthon] It is completed; there are 32 articles altogether.

[Correspondent] When will it be submitted to the king?

[Sunthon] Today or tomorrow.

[Correspondent] Have you approached the people who will serve in the cabinet?

[Sunthon] No, not until the National Peacekeeping Council has first agreed unanimously.

Foreign Secretary Briefs Diplomats on Coup

BK2602024191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] Permanent Foreign Affairs Secretary M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi yesterday explained the latest political developments in Thailand to Bangkok-based diplomats.

There was no "negative reaction" towards the bloodless coup on Saturday from the ambassadors of ASEAN, EC, Scandinavian, and Asia- Pacific countries, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek told reporters yesterday.

M.R. Kasem and all directors general of the Ministry's departments earlier in the day reported to the National Peacekeeping Council [NPC].

They were told that the military takeover "had the support and consent of the public and the media," and the NPC resolved to maintain the democratic system with the his majesty the king as the head of state.

M.R. Kasem told the ambassadors that the NPC intended to speed up investigation into all wrongdoing, as well as drafting a new constitution so that power can be returned to the people as son as possible.

The ambassadors of China and the Soviet Union also joined yesterday's session.

US Ambassador to Thailand Daniel O'Donohue reportedly expressed hope that democracy could soon be restored in Thailand, and that former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan would soon be released.

According to Spokesman Sakthip, ambassadors from European countries were "satisfied" with the process towards elections as declared by the NPC.

The Foreign Ministry would proceed with Thailand's conduct of diplomacy and international relations, and the policy toward Indochina and neighbouring countries would remain the same, although any change would depend on the new foreign minister, he said.

The fact that ambassadors of superpowers came for the session with M.R. Kasem yesterday signified that there was no "boycott' over the military takeover, Mr Sakthip said.

The ministry, he added, would still go ahead with a major restructuring plan to dissolve the Department of Political Affairs and form four new departments to look after political and economic relations with four respective regions in the world.

However, the March 1 timeframe for the restructure to take effect as set by former Foreign Minister Athit Urairat may not be possible, he said.

Council on Detention of Chatchai, 30 Others

BK2602012791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb 91 p A2

[Text] Gen Chatchai Chunhawan remained in detention along with 30 aides and officials yesterday after a military coup toppled his government on Saturday, sources said.

The National Peacekeeping Command [as published] [NPC] which seized power in the bloodless coup has said that those detained will be released soon after the situation returns to normal.

One source close to the NPC denied reports that Chatchai would seek political asylum overseas. It had been reported Chatchai would be freed if he agreed to go out of the country.

Chatchai was arrested at the beginning of the coup at the Air Force's airport with all members of his delegation which had been scheduled to fly to Chiang Mai.

Also arrested was Chatchai's deputy Gen Athit Kamlang-ek whose appointment last week as deputy defence minister was said to have spurred the military, already at odds with the Chatchai government, to stage the coup.

The coup leaders have declined to specify how many people they were holding. The sources said about 30 people, including Chatchai's close men and security guards, were detained by the coup leaders. It was believed that among them were permanent secretary for the interior Anan Anantakun, Senator Phithak Inthrawithayanan and Chatchai's advisers Surakiat Sathianthai and Bowonsak Uwanno.

The National Peacekeeping Command, which comprises the army, navy, air force and the police, has refused to disclose Chatchai's whereabouts. Sources said it was believed that he was being held at the compound of the Air Force Security Force near the Don Muang airport.

A servant at Chatchai's Ratchakhru residence said the junta had told the deposed prime minister's family that he was being treated well.

"They said they were treating him like their superior. He can eat whatever food he likes, from whatever restaurant he wants," the main said.

Chatchai's wife Thanpuying Bunruen returned from Songkhla to Soi Ratchakhru residence yesterday, sources said.

They said Bunruen, who was in Songkhla when the coup took place Saturday morning, left home shortly after her arrival and her destination was not known.

Family members of some other detainees said they were waiting anxiously for news about them.

A man quickly picked up the phone when THE NATION called Gen Athit's home on Sunday evening. His excited voice seemed to reflect relatives' concern about Athit's safety.

"We are all in the dark. What have you got?" said the man, who identified himself as Narong Witchan.

He said many relatives had gathered at Athit's house awaiting news about him.

Narong said all that the relatives knew about Athit was that he had been captured by the coup leaders.

"His driver who took him to the airport came back to tell us that he was arrested. We know nothing else," he said. Narong added that Athit's close aides had failed to contact the family.

"Everything is very quiet. We are very worried," he said.

Another Chatchai man, Yongyut Sarasombat, secretary-general of the ousted Chatchai cabinet, was also being detained by the National Peace-keeping Command, Yongyuth's wife said yesterday.

But Dr Sutthiphan Sarasombat said her husband called his family twice to say he was "fine".

"He said they were taking good care of him and that there was nothing to be worried about," Sutthiphan said.

"He sounded fine on the phone. We feel somewhat relieved," Sutthiphan said.

Anan's family told THE NATION that it had not heard from him.

"We know nothing except that he has been arrested," said a woman who asked not to be identified. "Nobody has contacted us. All we can do is hope that nothing happens to him."

Arrest Warrant Out for Chaloem on Defamation Case

BK2602013791 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 91 p 7

[Text] The Thon Buri District Court yesterday issued arrest warrants for Muan Chon Party leader police Cpt Chaloem Yubamrung and former MATICHON editor Ruangchai Sapniran for failing to attend a hearing in a defamation case.

Chaloem, who is wanted by the National Peace-keeping Council, and Ruangchai have been charged with slander by Maj-Gen Rangsit Yanothai of the Police Anti-Narcotics Unit.

Chaloem allegedly accused Rangsi of shooting Pramot Detkhachon, a 15-year-old student at Siam Engineering College, on August 28, 1990, while attempting to stop a street fight between students of the school and Thai Suriya Engineer College. His statement appeared in MATICHON newspaper on October 3 last year.

Only Maj-Gen Rangsit appeared in court for the hearing yesterday.

University Students Arrested for Defying Ban

BK2602015791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb 91 p A1

[By Charoenluk Phetpradup]

[Excerpt] Fifteen Ramkhamhaeng University students were arrested yesterday for defying a ban on political gatherings when they rallied on the campus to protest Saturday's military power seizure, a senior police officer said.

Pol [Police] Maj Gen Phaithun Suwanchian, deputy metropolitan police commissioner, said the 15 were charged according to the National Peacekeeping Command's [as published] [NPC] Announcement No 7 which says that those gathering in groups of more than five people for political reasons face a prison term of up to six months or fined Bt [Baht] 10,000 or both.

"This is a criminal case and we have to handle it according to the law," said Phaithun.

But he said that some of the 15 students, who denied they violated any law might be released.

The military junta rules with absolute power after it abrogated the constitution after the coup. The country is now under martial law.

Most of the student activists are members of the university's Saan Saeng Tong Party, one of the various student groups that have been politically active.

The activists' rivals in the Pital Tham Party, meanwhile, accused the arrested students of having connections with former premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan's policy advisers. Pitak Tham Party leader Paisan Chawana, also president of the Ramkhamhaeng Student Organization, however, registered his opposition to the coup.

"We agree in principle that the previous administration failed, but ousting it by force is not the correct means to solve the problem," he said.

The Student Federation of Thailand [SFT], which loosely binds together student organizations of most state universities, remained quiet yesterday. But a source in the SFT said that the group was opposed to the coup and will call a news conference soon to call for the military junta to lift martial law and keep its promise to hold an election in six months.

Earlier, the Sajjatham Party of Ramkhamhaeng University had put up posters urging people to participate in a rally to protest the coup today.

Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, meanwhile, said that the ruling regime had no choice but to deal decisively with student activists who defied the ban on political rallies.

"If we don't enforce the ban strictly, then we will not be able to control the situation," he said.

The arrested Ramkhamhaeng students had yesterday rallied in front of the campus, with former president of the Ramkhamhaeng student's organization, Siriwat Kraisin, delivering the first speech. Speaking to fellow students, whose numbers gradually increased to nearly 500, Siriwat voiced opposition to the coup saying that "it was against democratic principles in that the people's rights and liberty were seriously violated".

This group of students, calling itself the "Anti Coup Centre" issued a statement cautioning the NPC "not to act dictatorially" and requested the NPC to yield to the following demands:

—Suspend the martial law within seven days.
—Scrap Announcement No. 7 (banning political gatherings of more than five people) because, the statement said, it violates the liberty and the human rights of the people.
—Scrap Announcement No. 20 (banning political parties' activities) within seven days.
—Draft a new constitution and carry out a general election within 90 days from Feb 23, 1991.

Suwan Bundit, a former vice president of the student's organization, was the next speaker, and said that the student activists will fight to the end for democracy unless the above demands were met.

A sign protesting the coup placed in front of the campus read: "Although the government had not done a good job, political change should come about through democratic means having the people fully involved."

University officials, "instructed" to pull down the sign, faced token resistance from the students.

Though failing to successfully resist the officers, the students continued criticizing the NPC as about 50 policemen who had just arrived stormed the crowd and arrested 15 of them. [passage omitted]

Daily Compiles Reaction to Military Coup

BK2602022991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Feb 91 p 3

[Text] In its first official reaction to Saturday's coup d'etat, Japan said it expects friendly relations with Thailand to remain unchanged and has no plan to cut aid to the kingdom.

"Surprised" by the coup, the government of Japan "hopes that the National Peacekeeping Council [NPC] will transfer political power in accordance with its public promise of a civil government through a democratic process as soon as possible," said a statement from Japan's Foreign Ministry.

Japan expects Thailand to continue its constructive role in the search for a comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian conflict.

In Tokyo, chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto said Japan was watching changes in Thailand.

"But at this moment, we have no intention to change our policy," including economic aid, he said.

From 1968 until March 1990, Japan had agreed to extend yen credits totalling 833 billion yen (US$6.3 billion), said a Foreign Ministry official.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Japan is studying how much yen credit it will extend to Thailand in fiscal 1990, which ends next month, but declined to specify the amounts being considered.

Japan had agreed to extend yen credits totalling about 80 billion yen (US$606 million) a year during the past three years, the official said.

—**New Zealand** yesterday cancelled an official visit by a group of senior Thai military officers.

The group, led by Gen Wichit Sukmak, deputy chief of the Joint Operations Centre of the Supreme Command, arrived in New Zealand on Sunday.

"It would not be appropriate for the New Zealand Defence Force to host a senior delegation from the Thai military two days after Thailand's Armed Foces...had overthrown the elected government and established martial law in Thailand," Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said in a statement.

—**Indonesia** expressed hopes that normalcy would be restored in Thailand following the coup.

"It is a domestic affair on which I cannot comment," Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said. "As a neighbour and as an ASEAN colleague, our hope is that the normal situation can be restored," said Mr Alatas, referring to the military junta's promise of elections within six months.

Because of the coup, former Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan would not attend a conference on ASEAN planned for next week in Bali but the new Thai government could still send a representative, he added.

—**In Manila**, acting Philippine Foreign Secretary Manuel Yan welcomed the pledge by the ruling military junta to hold new elections.

"We are relieved to learn that the recent political developments in Thailand were not attended by bloodshed and that the country's peace and order have essentially been maintained," he said.

"The announcement that there would be elections in the near future to preserve democracy in that country is indeed welcome news," said Yan, a former armed forces chief of staff.

"We shall continue to follow carefully the events in Thailand, our ally in ASEAN," he said.

—**Burmese Ambassador** to Thailand U Nyunt Swe said he did not foresee any change in the friendly relations between Thailand and Burma.

NPC leader Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong had visited Rangoon to hold talks with leaders of Burma's ruling military junta, the State Law and Order Restoration Council, one day before he staged the power seizure in Bangkok.

"We always deal with the country, and the Thai people, not with the Prem, Chatchai or the Sunthon government," said the ambassador.

—**In Sydney**, Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said:

"The Australian government deeply regrets the seizure of power from the democratically elected government of Thailand and calls for an early return to democratic government.

"The government also looks to the military authorities for the full observation of human rights while the process of a return to democratic rule takes place."

Australia and Thailand have generally enjoyed cordial relations but they have warmed significantly in the past three years under the administrations of prime ministers Chatchai Chunhawan and Bob Hawke.

—**France** yesterday urged the Thai military junta to release ousted prime minister Chatchai Chunhawan and condemned the weekend coup that toppled him.

"France deplores the coup," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "It calls for the immediate release of the prime minister as well as anyone else arrested during the coup."

Ministry spokesman Daniel Bernard refused to say, however, whether Paris would follow Washington's example and impose economic sanctions against the new Thai authorities.

—**Phnom Penh** said yesterday it was studying with deep interest the situation in Thailand.

However the matter was an internal one for Thailand, the Foreign Ministry official said.

Editorial Commends Efforts To Root Out Corruption

BK2602035191 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb 91 p A6

[Editorial: "Ill-Gotten Wealth"]

[Text] Yesterday the National Peacekeeping Command [as published] (NPC) set up an omnipotent committee to crack down on politicians who have allegedly amassed ill-gotten wealth while in power in the past. The committee, headed by former interior minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot, is empowered to freeze all the assets of those suspected of corruption and seize them if the suspects cannot clearly prove they acquired their wealth legally.

Sitthi, a retired army general who last served as deputy army chief, is widely respected for his integrity and vocal criticism of corruption in high places. He is assisted on the committee by, among others, Suthi Agatsaroek a former permanent secretary of the PM's [prime minister's] Office. Suthi, too, is well-known for his honesty and modest lifestyle. He reportedly preferred riding the bus to work than taking his chauffeured official limousine. He was one of the most active members of the Counter-Corruption Commission (CCC).

The very good past record of both Sitthi and Suthi is enough assurance that the Sitthi committee will do its job properly, without fear or favour. The absence of the NPC leaders on this extremely powerful body also suggests that the NPC intends to give the committee a free hand, and quite rightly so.

Though the Sitthi committee will not supersede the CCC, its formation was clear evidence of the CCC's failure to tackle or deter corruption in high places in the past. In fact the CCC had never had real power to probe major corruption scandals involving senior government politicians because it is under the control of the PM's Office. The CCC has, for example, been investigating a former finance minister who openly estimated his fortunes to exceed one billion baht. Yet not much has been heard so far about whether the investigation is still going on or has been shelved for some unspeakable reasons.

Perhaps the Sitthi comittee can start from whatever corruption evidence the CCC has on various politicans. Special attention should be given to those who tried to avoid making a formal declaration of their wealth before taking office. And all the declarations—which were never disclosed—can be used in comparison with the current net worth of the politicians to see how much they amassed while in government. If enormous discrepancies emerge, then there are grounds to suspect corruption and demand proof of innocence, such as income tax payment receipts, from the suspects.

Some may decry this extra-judicial process as undemocratic, which it is, and unjust, which is arguable. But we must face the ugly fact that money has become the primary source of power in our badly distorted democratic political system, in which wealthy politicians could buy votes to win elections and abuse power to further enrich themselves and ensure their re-election.

Idealists say we must be patient and wait for people to come to the realization that they must take their political responsibility seriously and vote their conscience when selecting candidates. This is certainly what is expected of voters in a truly functioning democracy. But it has not worked so far in Thailand, where wealthy politicians have both the money and influence—through control of government officials and cooperation of local influential outlaws—to either bribe or intimidate voters into voting for them and their candidates.

Even deposed premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan conceded that the chronic problem of vote-buying in national elections was becoming more and more serious in each passing year. Yet he merely prescribed compulsory voting and lowering the minimum voting age from 20 to 18. These measures were based on the assumption that wealthy politicians would be unable to afford to buy more votes—which was obviously untrue.

By cracking down on politicians who have enriched themselves illegally, the vicious cycle of playing national politics to make money and using money to stay in power to make more money could be broken. So far, our existing judicial process has been unable to succeed in this task.

The failure of both the CCC and the judicial process to crack down on corrupt politicians must serve as a lesson for those drafting a new constitution and planning what we hope will be a better political system. There must be effective and independent anti-corruption bodies set up to guard against vote-buying and deter corruption when we resume our journey toward a genuine democracy.

The anti-corruption bodies must, as a matter of principle, be in a position to check all complaints of serious corruption in high places and bring to justice all those found fuilty of abusing their power regardless of their position in the government bureaucracy, political parties and, of course, the military establishment as well.

U.S. Trade Talks Likely To Be Postponed

BK2602020791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb 91 pp B15, 24

[Text] Talks with the United States next week on two trade issues are likely to be postponed following the military coup at the weekend.

A Commerce Ministry official said yesterday two delegations were originally scheduled to leave for the US for talks on textile and intellectual property rights.

The source said Permanent Secretary for Commerce Phatchara Itsarasena was expected to meet the National Peacekeeping Council [NPC] and its economic advisers today to discuss the two matters and await a directive.

The US has decided to suspend economic and military aid to Thailand—about 410 million baht in all was allocated for 1991—but it has not said yet whether it still wants to discuss the two trade issues.

Textiles and intellectual property rights are just two trade problems between the two countries. Another is airline landing rights.

Deputy Commerce Permanent Secretary for Trade Negotiations Kroekkai Chiraphaet was to have headed the Thai team in the intellectual property rights talks. When contacted yesterday, he said his mission may still go ahead if an interim government was appointed.

"We will only exchange views with the US authorities and brief them on developments on the IPR (intellectual property rights) issue," he said. "We will not be making any commitments."

Thailand needs to state what progress has been made to protect intellectual property rights before the US Trade Representatives can decide whether to accept a petition from the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Association.

The petition calls for the invocation of Section 301 of the US Trade Act 1986 against Thailand for delaying its amendment of the patent law to cover pharmaceutical products.

A special committee headed by Mr Phatchara reviewing the property rights protection has completed its draft amendment to the patent law and was ready to forward it to the toppled Government of Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

The intellectual property rights matter also includes copyrights and trademarks.

Trademark law amendments passed at their first reading by the former House of Representatives have now been suspended because of the military takeover.

Foreign Trade Department Director-General Chare Chutharattanakun was to lead the textile talks.

He said the talks were to center on a new textile agreement to replace that which expired in 1988. Disputes on certain textile categories were also to be discussed.

The NPC is expected to rule today whether the talks go ahead.

Without a mandate, the mission cannot give any commitments on the textile issue.

Ministry To Maintain 1 Apr Deadline on Flights

BK2602025591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 26 Feb 91 p B10

[Text] The Transport and Communications Ministry will maintain the deadline set on April 1 to reduce the number of weekly flights by US airliners to Bangkok from 38 to 28.

Siphum Sukhanet, permanent secretary for transport and communications, also said projects which had been passed by the previous Cabinet would be implemented as planned. He said the April 1 deadline to cut the number of flights by US carriers would be kept.

The deadline was set by the chairman of the Thai negotiating committee, Mahidon Chantharangkun, following the breakdown in bilateral aviation negotiations with the US government.

Former Transport and Communications Minister Samak Suntharawet had nullified the decision of the negotiating committee by extending the deadline by seven more months. His decision was welcomed by the US government.

But with the National Peacekeeping Command [as published] (NPC) stripping the previous government of its powers, Samak's announcement automatically become void as it had not been officially endorsed by the Cabinet.

Siphum said yesterday that Thailand would be prepared to resume the bilateral aviation talks if the US wishes to, but the old deadline would be kept.

Meanwhile, he said the ministry's projects, such as the one on satellite, which had not yet been endorsed, would be passed onto the Cabinet secretariat for the National Peacekeeping Command to consider.

Samak had earlier wanted to have the Cabinet choose between the proposals by Thaksin Shinnawat of Shinnawat Computer Co and Hwa Kay Thai Co belonging to the Kanchanaphat family, although the selection committee had ranked Thaksin's offer as the best.

Samak's predecessor Montri Phongphanit gave his approval to award the satellite operation concession to Shinnawat a day before the Chatchai I government folded and later re-emerged with a new Cabinet with Samak appointed as the transport and communications minister.

The investment proposed by Thaksin for the satellite project is Bt [baht] 4 billion under a 30-year concession.

The project would have to be tabled before Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, deputy chairman of the National Peacekeeping Command, who is in charge of security matters.

Siphum said the draft contract to award the three million telephone lines project to Charoen Pokphand and British Telecom had been approved by the Public Prosecution Department and could be signed this week. The investment is Bt150 billion over a concession period of 30 years.

He said the telephone project was one of those that had already been approved by the Cabinet.

Vietnam

Commentary: Gulf War Now in 'Atrocious' Stage

BK2502144291 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] On Sunday [24 February], the United States and allied forces started their ground attack on the southern border of Iraq and Kuwait. With this offensive, the Gulf

war has entered a new stage, atrocious and full of serious consequences. Here is our radio's comment on this issue:

The United States and allies' ground attack on Iraq and Kuwait took place when there were chances for peaceful settlement of the Gulf war. India, Iran, and the Soviet Union had advanced peace plans to end the war and that hotbed. The Soviet plan, which is supported by Iraq, shows much positive potential. It is considered a positive and good-will initiative because it opens opportunities and prospects for an end to the war. The secretary general of the United Nations affirmed that this is a new and serious initiative conducive to an end to the Gulf hostilities. One important factor in the agreement between the Soviet Union and Iraq is the latter's acceptance to withdraw unconditionally from Kuwait, meeting the basic demand of the UN Security Council resolution.

It is regrettable that the United States has not positively considered the Soviet-Iraq agreement. Instead, Washington urged Iraq to immediately meet the U.S. condition, that is to complete withdrawal within one week. Earlier, Iraq and the Soviet Union had agreed that the troop withdrawal would be completed in two weeks. This development shows that the United States prefers a military rather than a peace solution. Worthy of note is that the United States and allies' ground offensive was staged at a time when Iraq has officially accepted its troop withdrawal from Kuwait. It shows that the war is not only aimed at liberating Kuwait as professed by the United States. Is there any other goal? Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani maintained that the Gulf war has another objective besides driving Iraq from Kuwait. The ground attack involving 750,000 allied soldiers and about 1 million Iraqi troops will be one of the largest military concentration in modern history. That war has made a tragic turn with the ground battle.

Although the ground war has broken out, chances for a peaceful settlement to the Gulf war remain open. It is certain that with their aspiration to coexist in peace, countries, heads of state and international organizations will renew their efforts to prevent a worse turn of event in this war.

Commentary Urges End to Gulf Ground War

BK2602055791 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Station Commentary by Duong Quang Minh]

[Text] Progressive people were very concerned when they heard about the ground war launched by U.S. and allied troops into Kuwaiti and Iraqi territories at 0100 GMT or 0800 Hanoi time on 24 February. U.S. President Bush declared that the attack against the enemy has entered a new stage. It is noteworthy that the U.S.-led ground attack on Iraq was still launched in spite of Iraq's agreement to withdraw from Kuwait and the Soviet initiative receiving a warm welcome from a broad segment of public opinion. With this ground offensive staged by the U.S. and its allies, the Gulf war has entered a new turning point that will result in terrible consequences.

During the past month of air, naval, and missile attacks, both sides have suffered very serious losses. The United States has spent almost $1 billion per day while Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have spent a similar amount. Iraq itself has suffered losses of more than $200 billion, according to a preliminary estimate. An Egyptian daily estimated that the Arabian countries have suffered losses of at least $300 billion. In addition to material losses, losses to human life have also been immense.

The current ground war involves 750,000 U.S. and allied soldiers and about a million Iraqi regular troops—with the support of 7 million militia and reserve forces—making it one of the largest ground wars since World War II. If no measures are promptly taken to stop the escalation of this war, losses to human life and property will be immense. The scale of the disaster should be calculated in geometric rather than arithmetic progression because lethal weapons will be used and there will be a bloodbath, according to opinion in the Middle East.

The Vietnamese are very concerned about the Gulf war and hope that both sides will soon reach a peaceful solution to the conflict. We support and welcome the Soviet peace initiative under which Iraq agreed to withdraw from Kuwait—an initiative that met most of the fundamental reqirements of the UN Security Council resolutions.

Together with all progressive mankind, the Vietnamese people regret that a good opportunity was missed to resolve the conflict in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council without any further loss of life and property. We understand that differences in the ceasefire formula between Iraq and the U.S. and its allies are not enormous, and that the matter can be resolved in the framework of the UN Security Council. We think it is not too late to take action to achieve this goal and that the UN Security Council should immediately reconsider the situation.

QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Commentary on U.S. Aims

BK2502144591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 24 Feb 91

[QUAN DOI NHAN DAN 25 February Commentary: "A Tragic Turning Point"]

[Text] Peace-loving people worldwide have waited with much anxiety and also with great expectation following Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet-initiated peace plan, but their hope has vanished. At 0100 GMT, that is 0800 hours Hanoi time, on 24 February, more than half a million U.S. and allied troops were ordered to launch a massive ground attack against Iraq. U.S. President Bush announced that the offensive to dislodge Iraqi forces from Kuwait had begun and that the liberation of Kuwait had entered its final stage.

Thus, the Gulf war has failed to avoid a most tragic turning point and has run completely counter to mankind's wish for an end to the hostilities through a peaceful solution.

Over the past several days the world followed with keen interest the international diplomatic moves in which the Soviet Union played a key role in an effort to avert the war from its bloodiest stage. Broad segments of public opinion were pleased by Iraq's acceptance of the Soviet-initiated peace plan under which Iraqi forces would withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait and return to their positions before the 1 August invasion.

Unfortunately, heedless of Iraq's positive response and the diplomatic moves by the Soviet Union and other countries, the United States has launched a large-scale ground attack, trampling upon and brutally eliminating a very practical and rare chance to resolve the conflict through a peaceful solution. The ground war has erupted despite the fact that the difference between Iraq's agreed-upon formula and the terms set by a number of countries is insignificant.

The above-mentioned facts have demonstrated once again that contrary to their much-publicized argument that the objective of the Gulf war is to serve a noble cause, namely the liberation of Kuwait, the U.S. ruling circles simply want to destroy Iraq, eliminate the Husayn administration, and reestablish the order in the Gulf and the Mideast under tight U.S. control.

More than a month ago, only one day following the 15 January deadline for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait, the United States initiated the Gulf war through Operation Desert Storm. Likewise, this time, less than one day after issuing an ultimatum forcing Iraq to begin its troop withdrawal from Kuwait by 1700 GMT on 23 February, the United States has initiated a ground offensive.

This U.S.-type, big power-initiated war maneuver has clearly laid bare the warmongering nature of the ruling circles in Washington. It is certain that once the huge war machinery under the control of these forces has been set in motion, it will lead to crimes aimed at serving the imperialist forces' goals.

More than a month ago people could be tricked into believing that the United States was helping to liberate Kuwait out of generosity. Now, people have clearly seen through the real motive behind the U.S. decision to initiate this cruel and selfish war.

With the face-off between more than 750,000 U.S. and allied troops and some one million Iraqi troops, the ongoing ground war will be one of the largest-scale ground battles in the history of modern war. If pushed to its extreme, this century's Battle of Waterloo will cause unpredictable losses in terms of human life and material resources.

For more than a month now the war has taken place first of all through a direct confrontation between extremely modern weapons of all kinds and now through a direct face-off between flesh and bone people over the immense and burning desert sands. This is the final stage of a war aimed at trading blood for oil and it can be said that in the near future, as the scenarios change, a conventional war may develop into an non-conventional one in which weapons of mass destruction may be used.

The ground war has erupted, but this does not mean that the chances to end it have all been eliminated completely. At this very critical moment, let's mobilize the world community's intellect and conscience to prevent the war from reaching the bloodiest and cruellest stage.

Thai Coup Internal Matter, No Effect on Ties

BK2602081691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 26 (AFP)—Vietnam views Thailand's coup as an internal matter and plans to pursue bilateral relations, a Foreign Ministry Spokesman said here Tuesday.

"Vietnam is convinced that the change in Thailand's internal political situation will not affect the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries," the spokesman said.

Their relationship—strained during the last decade because of the Cambodian question involving them both—has improved in recent years at the prospect of a settlement of the conflict.

Thailand backs the armed forces opposing Phnom Penh's pro-Vietnam Government.

The coup in Thailand on Saturday came several days before Thai Foreign Minister Athit Urairat was due in Hanoi to discuss Cambodia and prepare for Vietnamese Premier Do Muoi's scheduled visit to Bangkok.

'First-Round' Discussions on Draft Documents

BK2502143191 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 24 Feb 91

[Text] Many grass-roots party organizations have held first-round congresses to discuss the draft documents of the Seventh National Party Congress and elected delegates to attend upper-level party congresses. Most of these party organizations were the ones chosen as pilot units for holding congresses. The remaining grass-roots party organizations will convene their congresses in March.

In the grass-roots party organizations of the Army's Military Science Department, Dien Bien Subward in Hanoi, and Thanh Thuy Village in Ha Son Binh Province, elections of delegates to upper-level congresses were conducted in strict accordance with established regulations. As a result, worthy delegates were selected while internal unity was preserved.

The results of the congresses of many other grass-roots party organizations, however, were limited because of perfunctoriness and superfluous preparations and discussions. Some congresses were held in too short a period of time and in conjunction with other activities. In some

congresses, too few suggestions were made and their contents were incoherent. In particular, not many ideas were contributed to the Draft Political Report, an important document of the Seventh National Party Congress. Suggestions by young delegates were also scant. Most of the delegates elected to attend upper-level party congresses were party, administration, or mass organization cadres, and few were party members directly engaged in production work, especially party members working in nongovernmental economic sectors. Some party organizations showed confusion in following formalities in holding congresses and electing delegates.

Tran Nham Article on Party Draft Documents

BK2402053591 Hanoi QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 1 Feb 91 pp 1, 4

["Contributing views to the draft documents of the Seventh Party Congress" column article by Tran Nham entitiled: "Standing Firm on Marxism-Leninism Is an Essential Course for Our Country's Progress"]

[Text] While studying the draft platform for socialist construction during the transitional period, we found a prominent essential course for the country's progress, that is, our persistence in the use of Marxism-Leninism as an ideological-theoretical foundation for socialist construction in our country.

Yet, there have been people raising their voices to advise us to be wiser and more flexible, to set aside the question of ideology, and to refrain from speaking about preserving Marxism-Leninism. They in fact, want to negate Marxism-Leninism.

It is common knowledge that the recent comprehensive and profound crisis facing various socialist countries has driven Marxism-Leninism to come under unprecedentedly fierce criticism from various directions. These are habitual criticisms from bourgeois hacks, hostile forces, people who are ideologically skeptical and unstable, and opportunists. Worthy of note is that there is also criticism against erroneous and dogmatic thoughts and obsolete concepts about Marxism-Leninism from revolutionaries themselves. Such criticism may lead to a situation where we can draw on historic lessons for creatively developing Marxism-Leninism. They may also develop in the opposite direction, that is, Marxism-Leninism and theoretical and ideological bases of our chosen revolutionary path will be negated. It is no coincidence that there are now people advancing allegations calling for setting aside the question of ideology and for refraining from speaking about Marxism-Leninism. This is tantamount to telling us to drop our banner and opt for democratic socialism.

Obviously, Marxism-Leninism is facing a great challenge. Should we continue to approve of Marxism-Leninism or should we deny it? Should we develop it creatively or should we become vacillating and skeptical? The answer should be assertive. Our choice should be clear-cut.

The draft platform asserts our loyalty toward Marxism-Leninism. This choice is obvious and there is no other choice.

But how do we properly understand the meaning of loyalty to Marxism-Leninism? Loyalty should be based on scientific thinking. Marxism-Leninism is a scientific concept that has its roots in reality and that always develops creatively. It has openly declared its fundamental theoretical viewpoints, does not fear criticism, and is ready face all debates. It has stood the test of time and has, in fact, developed constantly. We should reevaluate and draw a line between those frivolous and erroneous observations on socialism responsible for adverse effects on the situation and those old, obsolete thoughts about Marxism-Leninism which have become an obstacle to the new, ever-developing thinking about Marxism-Leninism. New intellectuals of our time should continue to cultivate and enrich Marxism-Leninism so it can cope with all the problems of our time.

Thus, Marxism-Leninism with its scientific and revolutionary nature should be continued in order to constantly cultivate, correct, and improve it with new experiences, new ideas, and new conclusions drawn from reality.

It is regrettable that over the years, fundamental principles about Marxism-Leninism have been explained mechanically and applied in a mimicking fashion, thus distorting them, turning them into an off-limit zone, and limiting the independent and creative thinking of the people.

As a scientific concept, Marxism-Leninism should uphold the spirit of criticism, creativity, and development. Without creativity and development, Maxism-Leninism will lose its youthful strength, its appealing power, and the admiration that it has enjoyed as a scientific subject developed at the peak of mankind's intelligence. For any scientific subject, the greatest importance lies in the proper use of the truth of various theses instead of in those persons trying to change this fundamental thesis or that fundamental thesis. Like other scientific concepts, Marxism-Leninism also possesses particular features and historic limits. There are theses that fit this historic condition but do not suit other particular historic ones. Constantly studying and examining with an objective and scientific attitude the principles of Marxism-Leninism is an historical responsibility of every generation of Communists under every situation dictated by our time.

Nevertheless, the term review does not necessarily mean negation of the revolutionary and scientific nature of Marxism-Leninism. As far as our country is concerned, some people have acted incorrectly by taking advantage of the drive to review Marxism-Leninism to express their skepticism about Marxism-Leninism and their vacillation over our chosen revolutionary path. They have raised this question: Is Uncle Ho's access to Marxism-Leninism an opportunity or a great tragedy for our people? Then they have come up with this answer: That access has led our country to its current deadlocked situation! In addition, they have flatly termed the introduction of Marxism-Leninism to Vietnam as an extravagance! It was at that

very moment that Thanh Tin raised the issue of setting aside the question of ideology and refraining from speaking about Marxism-Leninism. Indeed, this was an inevitable coincidence.

The issue in question has not been based on solid grounds or facts. During the course of our advance to socialism, we may commit errors and mistakes, even serious ones. Nonetheless, this does not mean that we have based our revolutionary path on fallacious ideological and theoretical concepts. We must definitely rectify our errors and mistakes but must not renounce the ideological ideals that have helped shape our path to a new horizon.

Actually, the pattern of transition to socialism followed by our country is unprecedented in history. Marxism-Leninism has posed a problem for us and it is our party and people who must find a solution to that problem. Therefore, we cannot avoid committing errors and mistakes while trying to solve that problem. It is not correct to say that we have committed errors and mistakes because Marxism-Leninism has lost its revolutionary and scientific nature. We have committed errors and mistakes because we have failed to thoroughly study Marxism-Leninism and creatively apply it to the specific conditions of our country. Because we have failed to act according to the law, we must rectify our mistakes but must not become vacillating and skeptical about the ideological and theoretical concepts of Marxism-Leninism.

The persistence in Marxism-Leninism has remained a dominant theme throughout the draft platform on socialist construction in the transition period. Is it possible to set aside the question of ideology? No! There can be no common ideological concepts for everyone. Each ideological concept bears its own class character. The reactionary forces have always tried to protect their ideological concepts by directing their offensive spearheads against socialism and Marxism-Leninism. He who advocates the need to set aside the question of ideology is actually calling for the abolition of Marxism-Leninism. This is nothing but a scheme aimed at misleading people who have become skeptical and vacillating.

Other views have suggested that the platform should be liberal and flexible when it comes to thinking and methods of presentation. Although this is an important rule, it does not apply to all cases. It is necessary to discern between matters of principle and issues involving tactics. It is fine to be liberal and flexible when it comes to issues involving tactics. Yet, when it involves matters of principle, one must maintain a clear-cut attitude. The persistence in Marxism-Leninism is a matter of principle. There can be neither dubious thinking nor vague methods of presentation here.

Nguyen Van Linh Visits Former Base Area

BK2302092591 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] The Voice of Vietnam correspondent in Ho Chi Minh city reported that on 20 and 21 February, General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh visited the former base area of Central Office of South Vietnam [COSVN] during the anti-U.S. resistance struggle for national salvation in the Sa Mat-Ta Not Zone, Tan Bien District, Tay Ninh Province, and attended a seminar on the building of this historic relic area.

Accompanying him were many comrades who once worked in COSVN, the National Liberation Front, and the provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam Republic, and nearly 400 cadres and combatants who had formerly worked and fought in the base area for many successive years.

In the seminar on the building of the historic relic COSVN base area, Comrades Nguyen Huu Tho, Pham Van So, Phan Van Dang, Tran Van Tra, Nguyen Thi Dinh, and many others expressed their desire to build this base area into a historic relic area worthy of its position in national liberation.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh emotionally recalled the former battles under the protection of his compatriots and comrades, and wished that the traditional solidarity between the party and the people would be developed in the current renovation process.

In the seminar, the steering component in charge of building the historic relic COSVN area presented a draft construction plan for the area.

Vice Premier Visits Hoa Binh Hydropower Project

BK2302034291 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 21 Feb 91

[Text] On 21 February Comrade Tran Duc Luong, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, inspected the construction of a third generator group of Hoa Binh hydroelectric power plant.

Accompanying him were Energy Minister Vu Ngoc Hai, Building Minister Nghiem Xuan Loc, and Boris Mel'nik, minister counselor of the Soviet Embassy in Vietnam.

After checking the installation of various equipment items of the third generator group and the control of waterlogging in 1991, Vice Chairman Tran Duc Luong, together with responsible comrades of the energy and building ministries and leaders of the project site, exchanged views on how to solve the problems of payment and production funds for building and installation units in order to accelerate the construction of the project.

Chairman Do Muoi Addresses Malaria Conference

BK2302092391 Hanoi International Service in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 91

[Text] Measures to cope with the growing incidents of malaria in the next five years were discussed at the national conference on the execution of anti-malaria program in Hanoi on Thursday and Friday.

Speaking at the conference, Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi called on all services to step up their

coordination in the fight against malaria which plays an important role in the strategy for socioeconomic development of the country.

In recent years, malaria has been coming back affecting millions of people having malaria and causing thousands of deaths.

Mongolian Revolutionary Party Congress Greeted

BK2502163491 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam recently sent a message of greetings to the 20th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

The message pointed out: The Communist Party of Vietnam and the Vietnamese people are elated over the great successes recorded by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party and follow with keen interest the implementation of your party's complex and important tasks. We are convinced that with creativity and the socialist ideology and bringing into full play the Mongolian people's revolutionary tradition, the 20th Congress of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party will chart the direction for consolidating and enhancing the influence and position of the party both at home and in the international arena.

Seminar on German-Vietnamese Relations Held

BK2302104591 Hanoi VNA in English 0707 GMT 23 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Feb. 23—A seminar entitled "New Opportunities of the German-Vietnamese Relations" was jointly held in Bonn on Feb. 19 by the Eastern Asia Association (Ostasienverband-OAV) and the Vietnamese Embassy there.

Among those present were D. Haurie, Secretary General of the OAV, Haboach, President of the OAV's Vietnam Committee, and representatives of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Economic Cooperation, and more than 50 businessmen.

Speaking at the seminar, Vietnamese Ambassador to Germany Bui Hong Phuc highlighted the comprehensive, thorough renovation policy of the Vietnamese party and state, the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in recent years, present difficulties and problems to be settled, and major policies and messures being taken by the government to push ahead the country's process of renovation.

The participants highly valued the initial achievements in the renovation process and expressed their wish to strengthen economic cooperation, investment and trading with Vietnam.

Ethiopian President Receives New SRV Envoy

BK2502163691 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT 25 Feb 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 25—Ethiopia wishes to further strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations and exchange experiences with Vietnam, said Ethiopian President Haile-Mariam Mengistu while receiving Vietnamese Ambassador Pham Dinh Vinh who presented his credentials to him on February 23.

The Ethiopian leader said Ethiopia and Vietnam are fraternal countries which share the same objective and history of struggle for justice and social progress. The Ethiopian people respect and admire the Vietnamese people's struggle for independence and freedom, he added.

Australia

Relations With PRC Normalized, Sanctions Lifted

BK2602070091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0650 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Canberra, Feb 26 (AFP)—Australia moved Tuesday to normalise relations with China, announcing it had lifted most of the remaining sanctions imposed over the Tienanmen Square massacre of student dissidents in June 1989.

As expected, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said in a statement that only bans on arms sales and official contacts with Chinese security personnel would remain.

He said bans on technical and agricultural research cooperation, Australian concessional finance for approved projects and on official visits had been removed.

In a statement last week, Mr. Evans foreshadowed the move, citing among reasons what he described as a marginal improvement in human rights in the people's republic.

He said martial law had been lifted in Beijing and Lhasa and that the trials of Beijing dissidents had resulted with some exceptions in sentences which had been more lenient than was widely anticipated.

"In a number of other respects the judgment is being widely made around the world that the situation is less gruelling and appalling than it previously was," Mr. Evans said last week.

Australia was considering removing the remaining restrictions in common with the rest of the world, he said.

Hawke Warns Countries Sponsoring Terrorism

BK2602033891 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0300 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Australia's prime minister, Mr Bob Hawke, has issued a warning to countries sponsoring terrorism that their strategies will not succeed. Speaking at the opening of the 11th Asian Regional Conference of the international police organization, Interpol, Mr Hawke highlighted Iraq's support for terrorism, describing it as despicable and barbaric. He also indicated that Australia was not immune from the threat of terrorism.

[Begin Hawke recording] During the Gulf conflict I have frequently been asked what assurances can be given that Australians will not be added to the lists of victims of Saddam's terror. Some would reply that no guarantee can be given because terrorism is by nature a ruthless and unpredictable activity. But I give a different answer. Australia has a good surveillance and counterterrorist capability and those capabilities are strengthened by the kind of international cooperation represented by this conference here today. Together, we must make it clear to those nations and organizations who sponsor terrorism that their strategies simply will not succeed. [end recording]

Both Iraq and Kuwait are members of Interpol's Asian region, but neither country have sent delegations to the conference.

Fiji

Government Agrees To Gulf Peacekeeping Role

BK2602091591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0830 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Suva, Feb 26 (AFP)—Fiji's Government announced Tuesday it has agreed to a United Nations (UN) approach for a request to send peacekeeping forces to Kuwait after the end of the Gulf war.

Ratu Jone Radrodro, home affairs secretary, said in a statement Fiji "agreed in principle to the approach provided all the costs were met by the UN."

"The approach by the United Nations had been made in anticipation of it being asked to supervise Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait," he said.

The informal approach was delivered to Fiji's permanent representative in New York, Winston Thompson.

Fiji Army Commander Major General Sitiveni Rabuka had indicated Fiji would send troops to Kuwait if asked.

Fiji has 1,100 men in Lebanon and the Sinai desert as part of the UN forces there.

New Zealand

Some Fear Economic Reforms Leading to Depression

BK2202043591 Hong Kong AFP in English 0321 GMT 22 Feb 91

[By Michael Field]

[Text] Wellington, Feb 22 (AFP)—New Zealand's latest experiment in economic reform, nicknamed "Ruthanasia" after Finance Minister Ruth Richardson, appears likely to plunge the country into a depression, following years of recession.

On April 30 cuts will be applied to a wide range of welfare benefits. Once free medicine no longer exists and looming on the horizon are radical changes to labour laws likely to wreck the trade union system New Zealand inherited early this century from Britain.

The results are a matter of debate, not over whether it will be grim, but just how grim it will be.

Agriculture Minister John Falloon warned government spending cuts would hit New Zealand with the shock of the 1930s depression.

He said while people receiving welfare benefits were about to take cuts, the next stage would see people on higher incomes being called to pay much more for various items, like health care, they used to get virtually free.

"That will put the shock into the New Zealand system that there has not been since the great depression," Mr. Fallon said Wednesday in off-the-cuff remarks which surprised his government colleagues.

A day later Prime Minister Jim Bolger tried to soften the news saying since they were elected last October they had been trying to pull New Zealand out of a depression.

"To do that, the country needs a government that starts living within its means, so everyone else can have a fair go at earning their keep," Mr. Bolger said.

"We can't keep taxing or borrowing our way around the problems of government over-spending."

Pragmaticism rather than ideology used to drive economic thinking. Since the great depression politicians were agreed on creating egalitarianism, an extensive cradle-to-grave welfare state.

While it was apparent in the early 1980s the country could ill-afford it, the radical economic experiments of Labour's Roger Douglas, who became finance minister in 1984 left the welfare system untouched.

He preferred to turn New Zealand upside down with "Rogernomics," a blend of free-market economics and deregulation.

But it failed to bring economic good times and now Ms. Richardson, the new minister, is striving to balance the books.

In December, faced with what she said was a five billion New Zealand dollars ($3.6 billion U.S.) balance of payments deficit she slashed a wide range of welfare benefits between 10 and 16 percent, saying the country had to take "stiff medicine."

She does not try to sweeten the medicine.

Although wealthy enough to afford a nanny to raise her children she unapologetically cut benefits paid to mothers and suggested they go back to the workforce. With 139,900 people unemployed at the end of December, 8.7 percent of the total workforce, is seemed especially cruel.

The welfare cuts are troubling many new MPs in the government. One, Hamish MacIntyre, crossed the floor of parliament to vote against the government and another, Gilbert Myles, is threatening to do so.

Various welfare orientated groups claim the changes will create poverty in New Zealand, producing an increase in crime, disease and prostitution.

But the measures come into effect on April 30, if only because many in government appear to believe the welfare system is being ripped off.

Among the most vigorous critics of the welfare system is Police Minister John Banks who urged people to grow silverbeet instead of collecting welfare cheques.

The other big change coming is the Employment Contracts Bill, currently being guided through parliament by Labour Minister Bill Birch.

It will scrap compulsory unionism, unions' statutory bargaining rights and centralised occupational awards, leaving workers to seek an individual employment contract or join others in a collective deal.

Mr. Birch says the changes are necessary to achieve economic prosperity. He has dismissed as "fear-mongering", claims from unions that the changes would drive down wages or create sweatshops.

But the vice-president of the Council of Trade Unions, Angela Foulkes said the bill would end "the New Zealand we know."

Together with welfare cuts, a review of education and the changes in the health system it was a "nightmare" which would lead to chaos and worker exploitation.

"If passed in its present ideology, it heralds a nation of rich versus poor, of powerful versus vulnerable, opportunity for a few and dead end for most," she said this week at a special union conference to discuss fighting the measures.

Papua New Guinea

Premier Urges Direct Talks With BRA Leaders

BK2602103891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1027 GMT 26 Feb 91

[Text] Port Moresby, Feb 26 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu called Tuesday for new talks with Bougainville's secessionist leaders after hinting a peace agreement signed a month ago was worthless.

Mr. Namaliu called for Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) Supreme Commander Francis Ona and Commander Sam Kauona to attend the talks for the first time to discuss the political status of the rebel-held island.

Recent comments by Mr. Kauona and Mr. Ona had shown that Joseph Kabui, who led the rebel delegations in earlier talks, did not have the authority of the rebel leadership, Mr. Namaliu told reporters here.

"We want to bring the review forward and they (Ona and Kauona) must be there so we can iron this out once and for all," Mr. Namaliu told reporters here. "As far as I am concerned I would like to see the review within the next few weeks."

He accused the rebel leadership of reneging on both the collapsed August endeavour accord and more recent Honiara declaration of peace, signed in the Solomon Islands capital January 23.

Mr. Namaliu was speaking after being briefed on last week's shipment of medical and other supplies to Bougainville, which Port Moresby blockaded after the BRA declared independence in May.

Journalists accompanying the ship last week interviewed Mr. Kauona, who said the restoration of goods and services under the Honiara declaration was essentially a side issue to the May 17 declaration of independence.

Mr. Ona said he would be prepared to attend the next round of talks if they focused on political issues that the Honiara declaration deferred.

It was these comments that prompted Mr. Namaliu to call for an early review of the Honiara declaration and to question Mr. Kabui's ability to negotiate on behalf of the rebel leadership.

Mr. Ona is president of the self-styled interim government of the Republic of Bougainville. Mr. Kauona is listed as defence minister and Mr. Kabui as justice minister.

Mr. Namaliu said of Mr. Kabui and his co-negotiators: "The people they have sent are not people that have the authority to make commitments."

"That's been the problem all along. They have to keep going back and where they (the rebel leaders) don't agree, they renege."

"That is why this declaration is heading...the way it is," Mr. Namaliu said.

Bougainville was the scene of a two year secessionist struggle, whose origins trace to rebel landowners seeking compensation from the Australian-run giant copper mine there.